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THE TIMES

How will history judge
Mr Ford? Page 14

President Sadat stops price rises and imposes Cairo curfew

President Sadat yesterday revoked price increases which had led off widespread rioting and fighting in northern Egypt, partly in Cairo and Alexandria, from Aswan, where he had

been due to meet President Tito. Mr Sadat took personal command in Cairo, where troops and police had fought a day-long battle with angry mobs. In spite of a curfew, fighting continued at night.

Mob of 30,000 defies troops

Bert Fisk
Jan 19
with the most serious disturbances in Egypt a riot under British resident Sadat hastily to defuse the explosion of violence in Alexandria by revoking temporarily all price increases that two days of rioting, though he returned to the winter resort to take personal command of the source of explosions to interrupt the continuing parts of the night, fought police forces in two densely packed districts, adding 13 to 15 toll, according to eye-witnesses. Sadat's decision on one means that he has caved in to every demonstrator. And it puts the economy in even graver for the price increases were made as a counter-Egypt's \$14m loan to International Monetary Fund.

After a second day of violence, in which at least 100 people were killed, were injured and buildings set on fire, it is clear to see what other Mr Sadat could have

point during the day, outnumbered and exhausted police and troops up to 30,000 demonstrating Cairo alone, while Arab Union crowds set fire to headquarters of the Arab Union, which houses as of Egypt's three new parties.

described had the become in the two at four o'clock this Government imposed 14-hour curfew, and soldiers and armed shot anyone found doors without a valid

affair the heart of Cairo

deserted, and only less beggars who live in military patrols. Aircraft and machine units on the top of towed carriers, troops and fire along the streets, some of them home on carts drawn by horses, had been driven by through the east of

Continued on page 7, col 7

Jan 19—India's main opposition party talks today on future and a possible merger of the two to contest elections in March. The surprise decision to hold election was announced by the Prime Minister, after 19 months of rule.

opposition meeting at the Delhi home of Arun Desai, aged 20, deputy Prime Minister released from detention hours before the announcement. He meeting would continue.

members of Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party enthusiastically welcomed the election they believe they handily. However, a figure voiced misgivings over the Prime Minister to say whether they would be lifted.

Desai said today the could take place under emergency "if they (the) utilize the only for violent

said that Mrs Gandhi want the opposition to defeat her. "She's opposition but not an to replace her," he

position groups trying united party, possibly the Oppressed Party, the Indian Party, the Hindu National Sangh, the Socialist and a number of inde-

Mr George Fernandes, Socialist Party leader, acting charges of conspiracy to overthrow the Government by force, said in a letter his prison cell today. Socialists and other would boycott the elec-

te: "It will be utterly for the opposition oblige Mrs Gandhi to bring in the kind of she plans to have." He said the elections a said a boycott would be Gandhi the legitimate is trying to secure illegitimate means."

See insight plea, page 6

Leyland men rejecting deal

A £50m plan to give Leyland Cars' 100,000 manual workers the biggest fringe benefits in the motor industry in return for fewer strikes is running into serious opposition on the shop floor. Workers at the Jaguar plant in Coventry rejected by 2,069 votes to 19 the package, which includes higher payments for sickness, redundancy and lay-offs. Employees at Triumph in Liverpool have already rejected it and shop stewards at Triumph in Coventry and at Cowley are recommending rejection

Washington prepares to acclaim new President

Despite bitter cold, Washington is preparing a warm welcome for Mr Jimmy Carter when he is sworn in as thirty-ninth President of the United States outside the Capitol at noon today. He will then walk part of the way to the White House, where he will stand outdoors to review a two-hour parade, before finally taking possession of the presidential residence. Page 7

Tokyo Rose pardoned

On his last day in office, President Ford has pardoned "Tokyo Rose", the Japanese-American woman who broadcast from Tokyo during the Second World War to American servicemen in the Pacific. He also granted a measure of amnesty to some Vietnam war deserters. Page 7

Islands remain in Bill

The House of Commons decided by 189 votes to 170 (a government majority of 19) last night not to leave Orkney and Shetland out of the devolution Bill. The attempt to make a special arrangement for the islands was denounced as "mischievous sabotage" by the Scottish nationalists. Parliamentary report, page 19

Tories meet TUC

A secret meeting between members of the Shadow Cabinet and TUC leaders took place on Monday. The economy and related subjects were discussed, and the atmosphere was described as cordial and reasonable. Further meetings are likely

European passport: Minister tells Commons select committee that new document will have a deep lacquer cover

Unwanted home: The Government has decided against acquiring Mentmore House, Buckinghamshire, the family home of Lord Rosebery, in lieu of death duties

New York: Further evidence shows that Howard Hughes, the eccentric millionaire, died under nourished, with decayed teeth, an ulcer and shrunken kidneys

Welcome from the Pope

The Pope has welcomed the Anglican-Roman Catholic agreement on authority and the papacy, as a sign of true fraternity and of hope for church reunion. In England, some hesitancy about the agreement was expressed by the Free Churches

Torture of Basques

Señor Juan María Bandrés, a Basque lawyer, has told *The Times* that police torture and maltreatment in the Basque country, has not stopped since the death of General Franco. He said he had not, however, succeeded in bringing alleged police torturers to trial. Police repression appeared to be most severe against those favouring Basque autonomy

Page 6

William Mann Scilla, Milau BBC 2)

Letters: On reform of Civil Service training, from Professor R. J. Bell and others; the protest over black unions in South Africa, from the Rev Harry Morton and others

Leading articles: Canterbury and Rome: Egypt's economic tragedy

Features, pages 8 and 14

Do we really want an election? Ronald Burt; Dennis Walters on Cairo's urgent need for peace; Fashion by Prudence Glynn

Arts, page 13

Gideon Bachmann on Fellini's new Casanova film; Alan Coren on Spaghetti Two-step (Yorkshire):

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Business News, pages 17-22

Stock market: Shares had their best day for many months but the FT Index closed only 0.5 up at 381.8

Financial Editor: Looking through

FSI 8 at Rank Organisation

Union Discos, winners of the

lone yachtswoman Clare Francis

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Herr Carl Zuckmayer; Yvonne

Printemps

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Racing: Michael Phillips looks at

today's Lingfield Park programme

Football: Derby County through to FA Cup fourth round

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HOME NEWS

Conservatives hold secret talks with TUC leaders

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Senior Conservative politicians met TUC leaders secretly on Monday to discuss the economy and related issues, it was learnt yesterday, and there are to be further meetings from time to time. It was agreed to make no public statement on the discussions.

Senior members of the Shadow Cabinet, including Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, met four of the TUC's representatives on the National Economic Development Council. The atmosphere was said to be cordial and reasonable.

Mrs Thatcher's first round of discussions with the unions marks the healing of the breach between the Conservatives and leaders of organized labour since contacts were ruptured by the Heath Government's handling of the miners' strike three years ago. Shadow ministers want to be able to assure the electorate that the TUC will cooperate if the Conservatives regain power.

Mrs Thatcher has no fear of Tory-union clash

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Thatcher last night declared her faith that the trade union movement will not obstruct or paralyse the next Conservative Government. She told the Institute of Bankers in London: "Whatever some people may say, I do not believe that the trade unions would deliberately stand in the way of wealth-creating economic policies, or the party that advocates them."

The unions contained millions of British people with minds of their own, who recognized the need to safeguard their future employment, she said.

They knew that unless a company or industry kept abreast of change it would sooner or later become a victim of change; that if firms did not expand they would sooner or later decline; that if they relied on government assistance to prop them up they were liable to fall all the harder when the Government was forced to withdraw the prop to meet more urgent calls on its funds.

"Change," Mrs Thatcher continued, "is as necessary to a successful industrial economy as oxygen is to the blood stream. But when it is too abrupt it can be socially damaging. Instead of frustrating change, which may only make its final consequences worse, government should try to smooth its progress and to alleviate the human suffering which can occur if the change is too great or too sudden."

If government is seen to be active and successful in this role trade unionists will come to lose their understandable anxiety about the short-term unemployment consequences of change, while seeing the greater long-term benefits which change brings."

Two men cleared of blame for rail crash

A guard and a shunter employed by British Rail were cleared at Northampton Crown Court yesterday of endangering the safety of persons using the railway by failing to apply the brakes.

The prosecution had alleged that as a result of the men's failure 38 wagons and a guard's van broke away during shunting operations at sidings at the British Steel Corporation plant near Crewe, Northamptonshire, on September 11, 1975. The wagons crashed into a goods train and Mr Sidney Harschorne, aged 57, the driver, was killed.

Joseph McIntyre, aged 20, the shunter, of Sargent Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, and Trevor Daff, aged 24, a guard, of Miln Street, Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire, had been cleared.

Mr Philip Benham, assistant manager for British Rail at Corby, said: "McIntyre should never have been placed in charge of shunting. He had been doing the job for less than six weeks. He did not have his certificate of competence."

Press Council is asked to look into its ruling

Mrs Colquhoun, Labour MP for Northampton, North, was cleared by the Press Council to investigate two of its adjudications on the safety of persons using the railway by failing to apply the brakes.

She wanted it to see whether the Press Council itself bears a large measure of blame for the hysterical hypocrisy of the *Daily Mail* in its treatment of the adjudication.

Mrs Colquhoun, in a letter to *The Times*, published yesterday, said the council had issued two statements, the second "watered down" after threats of legal action from the *Daily Mail*.

She wants the council to explain why the second statement carried an additional paragraph and to say "how far the *Daily Mail* and their lawyers, were responsible for this new paragraph, which gives an open season" to the invasion of the private lives of public people." Letters, page 15

TUC hold on nation 'a perversion of democracy'

By Our Political Staff

Now that contacts have been resumed, there will be regular discussions between the Conservatives and the unions about policy attitudes. Individual opposition frontbench spokesmen will exchange views with union leaders directly concerned with particular interests.

From the Conservative side, seven shadow ministers attended Monday's talks: Mrs Thatcher, Mr Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Mr Biffen, Mr Poynton and Mr Prior.

The TUC's president, Mr Len Murray, general secretary: Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the London Transport, the Stock Exchange and contained no representative workpeople except those belonging to the Transport and General Workers' Union; and Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union. Two of the six members of the TUC NEC team, Lord Allan of Fallowfield and Sir Daniel McCavey, could not attend.

Sacred is likely to be drawn also over future meetings.

In appointments to the economic and social committee, in Europe the entire representation was swallowed up by union nominees.

The Wilson committee was invited into the City of London by the Stock

Exchange and contained no

representative workpeople except those belonging to the TUC.

In 1977 the Chancellor of the Exchequer would once again recommend the level of personal taxation only after consultation with the TUC.

He continued: "The custodian of the people's legal rights, the Attorney General, has brought into dispute his high office over the TUC-led boycott against South Africa. Roy Hartigan, Secretary of State for Energy, announced yesterday that he had appointed Mr Brian Sedgemore, MP for Luton West, and leading member of the left-wing Tribune group, as his parliamentary private secretary.

The announcement was made after news had leaked that Mr Benn and Mr Callaghan might have been at odds over the appointment because the Prime Minister was withholding his approval until Mr Sedgemore promised to support the Government on all occasions.

Unions congratulated: More than a hundred Labour backbenchers have signed a motion congratulating trade unionists for taking action against South Africa this week.

It is understood that the delay involved disagreement over what was thought to be a matter of principle. The argument revolved around whether the Prime Minister was imposing conditions involving hypothetical considerations.

Anyone who accepted office could resign when government policy ceased to be acceptable.

Mr Sedgemore has accepted the job on that basis.

Plant breeders' victories may be shortlived

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The success of plant breeders in raising food production through the creation of new varieties with higher yield, greater nutritional value and better disease resistance has also brought an unwelcome long-term danger called genetic erosion.

Describing how breeders are working harder than ever before to provide new strains, Professor J. G. Hawkes, Professor of Botany at Birmingham University explained to the Royal Society of Arts last night why attention should focus on the wider aspects of such developments.

Extremely clever methods have been devised to introduce new characteristics into a plant to increase its protein, vitamin and carbohydrate content, or to make it adaptable to changes in temperature and extremes of drought. The doubts come when

one looks at the source from which those characteristics are obtained.

Crop plants have evolved under domestication to such an extent that it is difficult to be certain which wild species gave rise to them. In some cases so-called wild prototypes exist that are representative in the natural state of species which man domesticated almost 10,000 years ago.

The paradox lies in the threat to gene pools, which are the centres that have survived for many generations to convey characteristics through strains of plants. Agriculture seems to have had at least three independent origins: the Middle East, China, and Mexico.

Ancient crop plants were domesticated in distinct areas, which were identified by a Russian, Dr N. I. Vavilov, within the past fifty years. He organized expeditions to collect plants from different parts of

the world to obtain a diversity of cultivated varieties and their wild relatives. That was done to use them to create new varieties suitable to the diverse climatic conditions of the Soviet Union.

The results were astonishing in that great variation was found from the gene centre, that Dr Vavilov identified.

Concern arose a few years ago about genetic diversity of cultivated plants in the ancient crop centres when it became apparent that their number was diminishing. The seemingly inexhaustible gene pools were drying up.

The paradox is that the effect occurred with the first successes of the so-called "green revolution" to feed the starving millions in the underdeveloped countries.

Breeders were creating new varieties or selecting high-yielding lines among the highly diverse materials in the gene centres. Such new varieties from selection were

destroyed through the development of towns, roads and airports and the dumping of waste products.

84 children tested after accident in laboratory

Eighty-four children taken to hospital yesterday after an accident at Shine Comprehensive School, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne Wear. It is believed thermometer in an oven laboratory exploded an off mercury vapours.

The school authorities decided that the children go to hospital as a precaution. They were taken to hospitals in Sunderland and Gateshead by 20 ambulances.

One of the pupils is going to hospital today to undergo an eye test. The Queen Elizabeth pupil, Gateshead, whose child had been admitted aged about 13. Their pressure and pulses had been tested and they had been allowed home.

George Ince sues police chief

Sir John Nightingale, Constable of Essex, and his senior officers sue for damages by Ince, who is serving a prison sentence for his £400,000 silver bullion five years ago.

Mr Ince is suing the officers for alleged negligence and wrongful prosecution. His acquittal, at a second trial, of the Barn Restaurant at Braintree, Essex, in

Dismissal of c worker upheld

Mr Clifford Derbyshire, Birmingham car worker, was dismissed after allegations of union restrictions caused in production, has lost his factory appeal against sal.

A machinist at Breedon, Birmingham, now seeking compensation for unfair dismissal from his a week job.

Minister confounded over fireworks

Mr Fraser, Minister of Prices and Consumer Protection, yesterday reaffirmed the Government's approach to fireworks when he had a private meeting with the National Campaign for Firework Reform. He said that in the full time there would be phasing down of fireworks.

The centre would organize conferences and seminars, and publish occasional papers. Professor Rose recalled that the science of political economy was a Scottish invention.

Several specific ventures have been commissioned at the Strathclyde centre. A four-year project on the political structure of the United Kingdom, using £30,702 from the Social Science Research Council, will compare the systems of government in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and their relationships with Westminster and Whitehall.

The Volkswagen Foundation of West Germany has granted £35,325 for an international study of the contemporary strains upon government in Britain, continental Europe and Scandinavia. Of special interest at the moment is a research project designed to answer the question: "Can government go bankrupt?"

Rate-case widely freed from jail

Mrs Elsie Carrick, a widow, of Reddish, Stockport, who was jailed earlier this week for non-payment of rates, was freed yesterday after her family had raised enough money to pay the arrears.

She was committed by Stockport magistrates for two months when she was taken to court by the local council for payment of £280 rates due back to 1972.

Ban on 'Troops Out'

The Government has refused permission for the Troops Out movement to hold a rally in Trafalgar Square this month in spite of a temporary lifting of a five-year ban on rallies in the square.

On November 19, 1976, the movement held a rally in the square.

The rally was banned by the Home Office.

The movement has appealed to the High Court.

The High Court has rejected the appeal.

The movement has appealed to the House of Lords.

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HOME NEWS

Mrs Williams seeks to change powers of Schools Council

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

BIG changes in the powers and composition of the Schools Council are recommended by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in a letter to Sir Alexander Smith, the council's chairman.

She wants the governing council of 86 members to be reduced, possibly to below 50. It should have more lay members, including individuals elected for their experience and qualities rather than as representatives of organizations, and fewer teachers.

She recommends that the council should no longer have the freedom to deploy its resources as it wishes. There should be more direct consultation between the council, the Secretary of State and the local authorities about broad priorities for the council's programme of work.

The Secretary of State's own representation on the council, through two nominees sitting as equal partners with the other members, does not reflect the minister's overall responsibility for the education service, Mrs Williams says.

Sir Alexander said yesterday that the council, which was set up in 1964 to promote the curriculum, must retain its autonomy.

He added: "I can see the growth of a national policy on education and of a framework

of broad guidelines within which the council can work. If Mrs Williams means something more specific, then it will not succeed."

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, which has 17 representatives on the governing council, said that if Mrs Williams was not careful she would destroy the Schools Council. But he added, perhaps that was what Mrs Williams and her civil servants really intended.

Parliamentary committees recommended that there should be more lay participation on the council.

Last week the council announced that a working group

would review its role and constitution and report back by July.

Cuts opposed: Proposed education cuts by Buckinghamshire County Council will be opposed by parents and should be reconsidered, Mr Henry Clother, secretary of the Council for Educational Advances, a leading education pressure group, said yesterday in a letter to Mr Roy Harding, the county's chief education officer (the Press Association reports).

The council's proposals include closure of all five of its nursery schools, together with two teachers' centres. Mr Clother said the cuts would harm children's basic education and would be opposed by parents prepared to make sacrifices to avoid them.



Mentmore for sale: The Department of the Environment has decided not to acquire Mentmore House (above) in Buckinghamshire (Penny Symon writes). The imposing Victorian mansion, the family home of Lord Rosebery, contains one of the finest collections of eighteenth-century French furniture in Britain.

Most of the contents of the house, which was built between 1852 and 1854 by Sir Joseph Paxton, who designed the Crystal Palace, will be sold at auction at the end of May, and the house will be put on the open market.

The sixth Lord Rosebery died in 1974, and his heir, who lives in Scotland, was faced with enormous death duties. He offered the house and its

contents to the Government in lieu, but the Department of the Environment said yesterday that it would have cost about £2m to buy and the upkeep would have been too much of a liability. In present economic circumstances such an outlay could not be justified, it was felt.

Lord Rosebery said yesterday that for legal reasons it was necessary for the sale to be completed, and the death duties paid, within three years of his father's death. The time would be up at the end of May, therefore Sotheby's were extremely busy at the house preparing the sale catalogues.

"I am sorry that the Government did not feel able to take over the house, but I can understand that they thought the upkeep would be too expensive", he said. "We pay

several thousand pounds a year to rent fire and burglar alarms alone, so one can see the difficulty they would be in."

"My mother, who lives at Mentmore now, has bought a house in Aylesbury, and I do not live there myself. But I am sure that many people will be sorry to see the contents sold."

"There are some fine pieces of French furniture, including a desk by Leleu that belonged to Necker, Louis XVI's finance minister, and another that was owned by Augustus the Strong, the King of Saxony who built up the Dresden collection of pictures. In the great ball there is a chimneypiece in black and white marble from the house of Rubens in Antwerp. The paneling in the dining room was brought from the Hôtel de Villars in Paris."

The house is also remarkable, for its date, as it has hot water heating and artificial ventilation throughout. Sotheby's said the sale of Mentmore and its contents would be the most important house sale so far this century, and the contents should fetch about £3m.

Lord Rosebery said the house was very large indeed, really more like a museum. He thought foreign interests might be keen to purchase it.

Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of Save Britain's Heritage, which has been campaigning for Mentmore to go to the nation, said the Government's delay in deciding whether to acquire it had meant that it was too late for any other solution to be devised. It would have been an ideal place for day excursions from London.

Pope praises churches' agreement on authority

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 19

The Pope at his audience to-day praised the work of the joint Anglican-Roman Catholic commission on authority in the Christian Church, which culminated in the agreement published this morning.

He spoke in uncharacteristic confident tones of an atmosphere of "true fraternity" in recent talks with other churches and of the "hope which does not disappoint" of reunification.

The Pope referred to the Orthodox churches as well as Anglicans and Protestants. Of the published agreement, he said there was "a growing meeting of minds" and he was clearly happy about the degree of recognition contained in the document for the special place of the papacy in the concept of diversity in unity.

He saw the role of "the see of Peter" as a peculiar form of service for the unity of the Church.

In describing the extent of unity reached so far, the Pope pointed to certain limits: Roman Catholics were already united through baptism with the Orthodox, the Anglicans, and the Protestants. But that was only a polar of departure on the way to complete unity.

On that point, he said that common Masses and Communion services should not be celebrated until full unity had been reached.

In what appeared to be an indirect reference to the agreement prepared by the Joint commission, the Pope told his audience: "Our feeling of hope is also based and sustained by the favourable results reached in the search for unity among Christians. In fact a new atmosphere has been established and the spirit of true fraternity is becoming constantly more solid and fruitful."

VATICAN CITY, Jan 19.—The Vatican Press Office said today that the joint commission's document had been released on the commission's authority, but with permission from the Anglican and Roman Catholic authorities.

The intention was to stimulate responses from theologians in the two churches (Reuter).

Episcopacy remains obstacle for many

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Anglican-Roman Catholic agreement on authority and the papacy, announced yesterday, might complicate attempts to achieve Christian unity in Britain, according to Free Church Comments on the agreement.

Dr John Hurstall, secretary of the interdenominational Churches' Unity Commission and a former general secretary of the United Reformed Church, welcomed the friendly tone of relations between the Roman Catholic and the Anglican Commission which had produced the agreement.

Discussing Anglican objections to traditional Roman Catholic thinking on the papacy, they argue that the "immediate universal jurisdiction" of the Pope is objected to on practical rather than theoretical grounds.

Theoretically the Pope's jurisdiction is used only to strengthen the unity of the church and the position of a local bishop in his church. They point out that the exercise of that immediate jurisdiction is even rarer than the exercise of papal infallibility.

"Much more frequently felt in the modern church, and therefore much more likely to cause friction, is the exercise of indirect authority, through the frequent issue of directives concerning such subjects as the celebration of the liturgy, the training of the clergy, etc.", they say.

Roman Catholic administration has become much more centralized even in the past hundred years.

The two theologians point out that in a reunited Church the Anglican Communion could be left in charge of its own discipline and canon law, in the model of Greek and Roman Catholic churches which traditionally follow Orthodox customs while remaining in communion with Rome.

The Pope, they say, acts as universal primate and as patriarch of the Latin church of the West. The Anglican Communion could become a patriarchate in full communion with Rome so that any intervention in the affairs of an Anglican diocese would be made by the Anglican patriarch—presumably the Archbishop of Canterbury—and only very rarely by the Pope himself.

Anglican difficulties about papal infallibility, expressed in yesterday's agreed statement, are in the opinion of these two theologians, "certainly not beyond the range of hopes".

Bill seeks to ease tax on profitsharing

By Our Political Correspondent

Tax disadvantages that act as a deterrent to the extension of workers' profit-sharing schemes would be largely removed by a private member's Bill introduced by Mr Julian Riddell, Conservative MP for Harwich, with all-party support, which comes up for second reading in the Commons tomorrow.

He said yesterday: "I seek to build upon the existing provision whereby companies obtain corporation tax relief on employees' bonuses, whether paid in shares or cash from profits."

"This means that the state already funds just over half the cost of profit-sharing, but the snag is that employees themselves suffer income tax on their bonuses, either on earnings or a receipts basis."

"The Bill proposes to substitute, for the present charge to income tax, a provision that, if held for five years, shares will be liable only for capital gains tax."

He explained that bonuses paid in shares to a worker are subject to income tax. If he undertook to hold them for five years he would be paying about 30 per cent in income tax instead of 44 per cent or more.

To guard against excessive losses to the revenue Mr Riddell proposes that companies should not be able to set aside more than a tenth of their pre-tax profits for share-bonus schemes. No individual would be allocated more than £1,000 worth of shares a year. The scheme would be entirely voluntary.

Woman died from 'strict diet'

Miss Audrey Rickett, aged 55, died from malnutrition due to a strict diet. Mr Anthony Rothera, the coroner, was told at a Nottingham inquest yesterday.

Miss Rickett, of Pierrepont Road, West Bridford, ate only yogurt, special bread, raw carrots and an occasional egg, it was stated. The coroner said she had suffered from anorexia nervosa.

Britain in Europe 3: Common agricultural policy is anything but simple

Less good for farmer, less bad for consumer

By Roger Berthoud

Nothing is simple about the EEC's common agricultural policy (CAP), but one thing can perhaps safely be said: it has so far turned out to be less good than expected for the British farmer and less bad than expected for the British consumer.

Several factors have combined to confound expectations.

The first was the dramatic rise in world food prices in 1973 and 1974, the first two years of EEC membership. Thanks to EEC membership, cereals and sugar in particular were for a period cheaper than they would otherwise have been.

Then there was, and still is, high inflation. That has profoundly affected prices of all foods, whether they are subject to CAP rules or not. It has dwarfed the impact of the transitional arrangements in the Treaty of Accession, under which Britain's producer prices have been aligned progressively with those of the Six, with the last two increases due this year.

This is not pure gain. A depreciating pound would have pushed up food prices in and out of the EEC.

For the British farmer, the effect has been to hold down his prices by allowing imports to compete with those of the EEC at artificially low prices. The normal effect of a drop in sterling's value would be to increase the cost of imports, making British produce more competitive and enabling farmers to increase prices.

When Britain joined the EEC British agriculture moved from an essentially free market system open to economic forces, to a system involving managed markets for the main products. Under the old system the market price was to be free, but with a guaranteed price for the farmer, any shortfall being

made good by a "deficiency payment" or direct subsidy.

Under the EEC system the market price is guaranteed at a level fixed periodically in Brussels. That level is protected by levies on any cheaper imports, and subsidies are used to bring EEC exports down to below world levels.

If the market price falls below the EEC or intervention price the farmer can sell direct to the British consumer from the intervention board, based in Britain at Reading, whose local representative would tell him where to deliver the produce. Theoretically the intervention board would sell it later when prices had risen, or dispose of it on world markets.

The effect has been to shield the British consumer from the true price of EEC imports, at a present cost to the EEC budget of £1.5m a day, representing the gap between the real value of the pound and the artificial exchange rate, known as the green pound.

That is not pure gain. A depreciating pound would have pushed up food prices in and out of the EEC.

For the British farmer, the effect has been to hold down his prices by allowing imports to compete with those of the EEC at artificially low prices. The normal effect of a drop in sterling's value would be to increase the cost of imports, making British produce more competitive and enabling farmers to increase prices.

Finally, and most important, there has been the poor weather of the past two crop years, which has reduced British food production in a way not attributable to the EEC.

Traditionally the British farmer has made his money chiefly from liquid milk delivered to households, leaving butter mainly for the New Zealanders or to dumped surpluses from the Continent.

On the Continent, a milk surcharge protects against a fall in butter and cheese prices.

Controversially, this has been the main cause of a price increase in Britain, from about 1972 to 1974, two further increases likely to bring it to 60%.

Almost equally costly is the damaging effect for British farmers and consumers of the present level of subsidies. For example, they are higher than the cheap Danish imports wrecking the home market.

For other main products, it is hard to pinpoint exactly what change so far has principally come from imports. The three-year import ban, it is thought, has had little effect on the price of beef.

Cereals have been high world prices weather in Europe. As the EEC import levy is to make little difference.

The future looks uncertain. CAP will depend partly on forms likely to reduce costs and partly on the possible participation in the price-fixing system.

Traditionally the British farmer has made his money chiefly from liquid milk delivered to households, leaving butter mainly for the New Zealanders or to dumped surpluses from the Continent.

To be continued.

'EEC and devolution could correct centralization'

By a Staff Reporter

Britain is among the most centralized countries in the EEC. Membership of the commission, as well as devolution, could help to correct that, Dr Owen, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the London Economic Society yesterday.

"In Britain today, quite wrongly, too many people identify the EEC with centralization and bureaucracy, an association for which there is evidence as there is points in the opposite direction", he said. "The evolution of the EEC has already started to move decisively from Common Market to Community in the fullest and richest sense of the word 'community'."

That had happened partly because there was in many

member states a strong underlying sympathy towards any critique of centralized bureaucracy.

Accompanying that was rediscovery and highlighting of regional culture and size, and an increasingly vocal demand for greater involvement and participation in some specific parts of the decision-making process, particularly at the place of work.

Dr Owen thought there was in the Community a predisposition towards decentralization rather than a structural bias towards centralization. He conceded that the European Commission, which employed a mere 10,000 civil servants, about as many as the Department of Industry, could be a focus for the acceleration of centralized power.

He said: "I would like to

Britain ready to act alone on fishery conservation

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Britain will act alone if she cannot get EEC agreement within five weeks to fishery conservation measures. If it does not get Community agreement, then four or five weeks later.

Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, stated that yesterday at a meeting of the trade and industry committee investigating fisheries.

Mr Hamish Watt, Scottish National Party MP for Banffshire, asked Mr Silkin whether his department had an estimate that past quotas had been dangerously high and how long they expected that could continue without spoiling stocks to a point of no return.

Mr Silkin replied: "I would have thought it necessary to get conservation measures work-

ing within four or five weeks."

Mr Neville Trotter, Conservative MP for Tynemouth, asked whether the Government prepared to act alone if no agreement was reached.

Mr Silkin told reporters that what happened depended on the response of the European Commission.

Mr Silkin was at a meeting of the agriculture committee on Friday.

Mr Silkin said: "I would like to have a strong line on conservation when the issue comes up at the next foreign ministers' meeting on February 8.

EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

Two further important provisions come into force on 1 February

Part-time Workers

From 1 February many more part-time workers will be entitled to the same individual rights and job security as full-time employees. Those employed for 16 hours or more per week will be able to qualify if, as soon as, they have completed the necessary period of continuous employment for the individual right concerned. Those working for 8 hours or more per week will qualify if, as soon as, they have completed five years' continuous employment.

For full details of Guarantee Payments and extension of individual rights to part-time workers, call in at your nearest Unemployment Benefit Office, Employment Office or Jobcentre.

EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

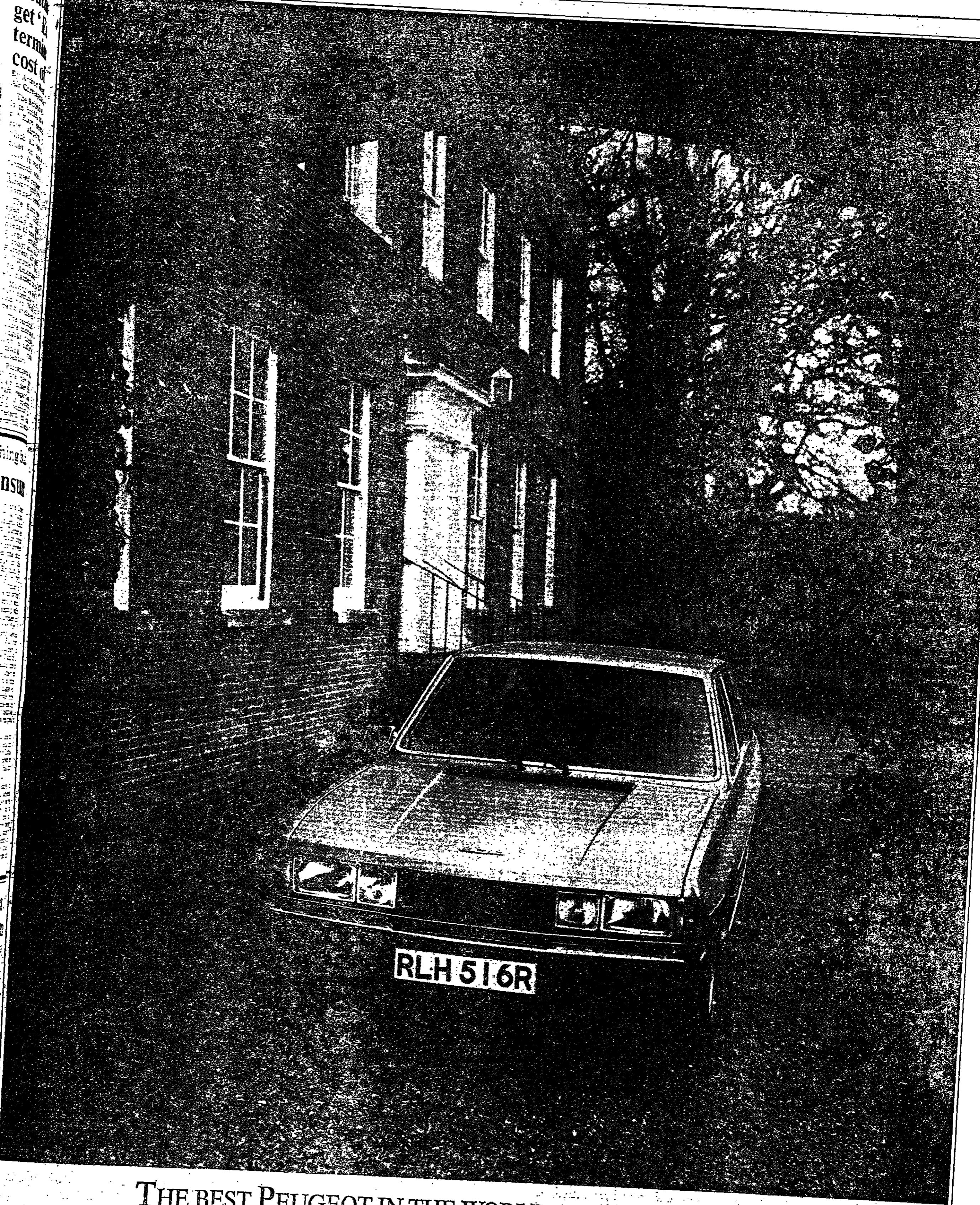
A better working life for everyone.

The Employment Protection Act provides protection and job security for everyone who is employed, including certain part-time workers. Two further provisions of the Act come into force on 1 February.

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Tugendhat names Conservative for Brussels political post

From Michael Hornby
Brussels, Jan 19

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Britain's second European commissioner, has appointed Mr Dermot Gleeson, at present the head of the home affairs section of the Conservative Party's research department, to one of the top posts in his private office of cabinet.

Still only in his late twenties, Mr Gleeson will be entrusted with "special responsibility for political matters". Among his duties will be to write Mr Tugendhat's speeches and draft answers to questions from the European Parliament. He will also be expected to keep his master in touch with political developments in Britain.

Each of the 13 commissioners has a cabinet—an institution more familiar to French than to British practice—and appointments to it are his private prerogative. Usually up to about six in number, the members of a cabinet are generally of the same nationality as their commissioner.

If a commissioner is absent for some reason, his chief of cabinet acts in his stead at the weekly meeting of the Commission. This is usually held on a Wednesday at the Berlaymont headquarters in Brussels and is conducted much in the manner of the Cabinet meeting of a national government.

Mr Tugendhat still has one more vacancy to fill in his cabinet and is looking for someone with expertise in budgetary affairs, the area of EEC policy which is his main responsibility. Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission's president and aspirant Prime Minister of Europe, has completed appointments to his own cabinet.

Its members are Mr Crispin Tickell (chief), Mr Michael Emerson, Mr Haydon Phillips,

Entry of Greece to Nine wins MPs' support

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Jan 19

The Liberal Democratic group in the European Parliament came out today in favour of speeding up Greece's admission to the EEC without political or other conditions. There are 26 Liberals in the 182-strong Parliament.

M. Jean Durieux (France), who is leading a delegation of this group on a visit to Athens for talks on entry arrangements, told a news conference that negotiations for the admission of Greece as a full member should be completed this year.

Mr Graham Avery, Mr Etienne Reuter (Luxembourg) and Herr Klaus Ebermann. In addition, special roles have been assigned to Mr Michael Jenkins, formerly *chef de cabinet* under Mr George Thomson, the retired commissioner for regional affairs, and to Mr David Marquand, the Labour MP.

Mr Michael Jenkins—known to Brussels wits as Jenkins-the-telephone to distinguish him from his master—is serving as the new president's political adviser during a transitional period of about six months. Mr Marquand is to provide liaison with the European Parliament.

The Commission today began the complex and politically delicate task of reorganizing its 20 policy departments, known as directorates-general, and where necessary appointing new directors-general to run them. As with the choice of commissioners, a national balance has to be maintained.

The relationship of a director-general to a commissioner is roughly the same as that of a permanent under-secretary to a Cabinet Minister in Britain.

The main administrative changes envisaged by Mr Jenkins have been well advertised in advance. These are the merger of the industrial affairs and internal market departments and the creation of a single information department embracing public relations activities and the hitherto separate press spokesman's group.

Hotly tipped to head this new department is Signor Renato Ruggiero, currently director-general of regional policy. This will enable Mr Jenkins to dislodge the present chief press spokesman, Signor Beniamino Olivi, whose relations with senior British officials in the Commission have long been strained.

EEC clears way for links with new states

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 19

EEC member governments have cleared the way for three newly independent countries, including Papua New Guinea, to join the Lomé trade, aid and cooperation agreement which links the Community with former European colonies.

The formal accession of the former Australian territory, as well as the former Portuguese colonies of São Tomé and Príncipe and the Cape Verde Islands within the next few weeks, will increase membership of the Lomé convention to 52.

Basque lawyer tells of abortive efforts to bring police to court

Suspects allege 'bath' torture sessions

From William Chislett
San Sebastian, Jan 19

It is a myth that police torture and maltreatment have stopped in the Basque country since the death of General Franco, Señor Juan María Bandres, a Basque lawyer, told The Times.

"People have the idea that this went out with the death of Franco, but it continues and the problem remains unsolved," he said. He did admit that the publication of reports and photographs in the press was beginning to create a different climate in the police.

Not only were the police continuing to maltreat political suspects but lawyers' attempts to bring policemen to justice had been unsuccessful. Señor Bandres has had many years' experience in defending mainly the cases of Basque nationalists, including members of ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

Police repression appeared to be hardest against people in favour of autonomy for the Basque country, he said.

His latest attempt to bring alleged police torturers to trial concerned two young Basques arrested on October 20. According to their own state-

ments, they had been arrested at their homes in Hernani, outside San Sebastián by several plainclothes Civil Guards, who did not show identity cards.

They were taken by car to a flat where they were interrogated about arms of which they said they knew nothing. After repeated denials, they were told to take off their clothes.

"Once undressed," said one of the statements, "they tied my hands behind my back and wrapped me in a blanket and strapped me on to a specially prepared table with a bath full of filthy water. There were six or seven people, all dressed in mufti, who by moving the table made by head dip into the water repeatedly. Each immersion lasted about a minute and a half."

After he had eaten, the suspect was taken from a cell and they did another "bath session" with me during which I lost consciousness," according to witness (one of whom was the other man arrested). Who heard the conversations and voices of the people submitting me to this treatment they thought that I had died from suffocation."

He was released the next day without being brought before a magistrate.

She was arrested for her political activities and, according to her statement, severely beaten while being interrogated. She apparently nearly lost consciousness and fell out of the window. She now walks with crutches.

The statement of the other man reads almost the same except that during his "bath" his wrists broke. This suspect was also released without any charges being brought against him.

He did, however, appear before magistrates in San Sebastián but no mention was made of the treatment he had suffered.

Immediately after being set free, he made contact with Señor Bandres and started lengthy proceedings to bring those responsible to trial. So far they had heard nothing.

Señor Bandres said that the man had appealed in this matter since General Franco's death was that "now magistrates at least recognize that maltreatment exists but do not go any further. There is no shortage of victims of maltreatment here, but none of them has had a successful action".

Only a month ago, Señor Bandres heard that in a similar case of his the magistrate had ruled that there was no case to answer. This case concerned a girl who fell from the third floor window of the San Sebastián police headquarters on September 23, 1975.

She was arrested for her political activities and, according to her statement, severely beaten while being interrogated.

Support for Barre plan from firms

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 19

French employers have overcome their fears that the Barre anti-inflation plan would not succeed, M François Ceyrac, the president of CNFE, the French employers' federation, indicated at its annual general meeting yesterday. "The worst days are perhaps over," he said.

M Ceyrac emphasized that to protect employment firms needed to remain competitive. This meant relieving firms of financial burdens they should not bear; giving them the chance to finance their investments; reducing the trade deficit by promoting exports and curbing "wild" imports; and assisting the industries hardest hit by the economic crisis.

But M Ceyrac insisted that France should not return to protectionism.

The meeting showed that the two main preoccupations of employers remain what is in their view the most immediately hazardous of social security charges on firms and the necessity of government assistance to finance investments.

Separatists flaunt the flag Franco banned

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 19

The red, white and green flag of the Basque country was flying outside town halls throughout the four Basque provinces today, a symbol of Basque determination to win a total amnesty and the restoration of home rule.

The first flag hoisted by order of the town council was at Garey, near Bilbao, according to the semi-official Spanish news agency Cifra. The flag went up there at 9.15 pm yesterday, but in most other towns it was not hung out until this afternoon, coinciding with simultaneous town council meetings throughout the region.

The Interior Ministry announced today that Basques will no longer be persecuted for using or showing their flag, but it remained that when it is flown alongside the Spanish national flag, the red and yellow Spanish flag should be given priority.

The Interior Ministry also said the Government was studying the possibility of a broader amnesty in spite of recent acts of terrorism.

Five suspected members of the separatist organization ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) have been charged in San Sebastian with a political offence.

A committee of Basque mayors had meetings in Madrid yesterday with Lieutenant-General Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of security and defence, and Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Interior Minister. A spokesman for the mayors' committee described the talks as "moderately optimistic".

He will be joined in West Berlin tomorrow by his West German counterpart, Herr Genscher. The French Government was placed under considerable pressure by Spain to include the German minister in his programme. But it is made clear in Paris for the benefit of East Berlin that Herr Genscher has been invited to come under the 1954 Berlin agreement which provided for consultations between the three Western allies and the Federal Government over the exercise of their rights in Berlin.

In a luncheon speech today M de Guiringaud claimed that the Abu Dioud affair had been exploited in a disgraceful fashion by countries which wanted to prevent France from playing its rightful part in the Middle East. This would not prevent Paris from playing this role.

"I intend to visit all the countries of the Middle East involved in the conflict", he continued.

The French Government feels that a situation favourable to the settlement of the Middle East conflict is slowly beginning to emerge, and that Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, and Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, are honestly in favour of one.

In the 10 years since he took over the mountaineering school Harki established at Leyzin, Harki earned the respect and admiration of the villagers for his attachment to the Alps.

Under his direction the school has acquired a high reputation, especially in Britain and the United States.

Allies ban East German air office in divided city

Berlin, Jan 19.—East Germany has been refused permission to open an office of its Interflug airline in West Berlin, allied sources said today.

The Western allies—Britain, France and the United States—and the West Berlin City Government refused permission to open a flight office at East Berlin's Schönefeld airport.

A growing number of West Berliners have been using cheaper international flights from the East German airport over the past few years.

The Interflug application was formally turned down under a 1962 Allied order empowering the city government to stop activities of foreign companies that might damage West Berlin's interests.

Herr Klaus Schütz writes from Berlin: Herr Klaus Schütz, chief

burgomaster of Berlin, said today that he believes relations with East Germany will be stormy this year, with the Communists systematically testing the four-power status of the city.

At his traditional press conference at the beginning of the year, Herr Schütz said the sudden political spell of frost from the East was more than a temporary turbulence.

Without mentioning East Germany and its allies directly, Herr Schütz said it would be a fatal error to think that these storms would not have grave consequences for international attempts to ensure security and cooperation.

He said recent East German attacks aimed at undermining the four-power status and questioning the Berlin-Bonn relationship, were part of a coordinated communist campaign.

Cardinals give up free railway travel

Rome, Jan 19.—Cardinals have given up the privilege of travelling free on Italian trains and of reserving first class compartments for themselves.

The secretary to one of the cardinals said today that they had decided in November to ask the state authorities to withdraw their yellow passes, which were due for renewal at the end of this year.

The cardinals enjoyed the privilege as "princes of the blood", a status conferred on them in 1815 by the Congress of Vienna. Agence France Presse.

The change gave the small

CDU rule for Hanover with FDP assistance

Hanover, Jan 19.—West Germany's first conservative-liberal coalition in nearly six years took office in the Lower Saxony Land Parliament today, ending a year-long political stalemate.

The change gave the small

Liberal Free Democratic Party a foothold on both sides.

With today's swearing in of Herr Rüger Gross, the FDP leader, and his deputy, Herr Erich Kippler, as ministers, Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Land prime minister, has a comfortable majority of 88 seats against the Social Democrats.

The CDU, which had been

accused of being a "court party" by the Social Democrats, has

been forced to make some

concessions to the Social Democrats.

Overseas

OVERSEAS

Smith party caucus to consider scrapping all discriminatory laws

From Michael Knipe

Salisbury, Jan 19

The arrival here tomorrow of Mr Ivor Richard, the British chairman of the recessed Rhodesia Settlement talks, will be preceded by a meeting of the ruling Rhodesian Front's parliamentary caucus which, according to party sources, will be the most significant in its history.

The caucus meeting will be the second within a week, an unusual event when the Rhodesian Parliament is in recess as it is at present.

According to informed sources, the momentous issue before the caucus will be a government plan for repealing all racially discriminatory legislation.

This would involve scrapping the controversial Land Tenure Act, a cornerstone of Rhodesian Front policy, which divides the country equally between the six 250,000 whites and the six million blacks. Segregation in residential, hotel and industrial areas would be abandoned, with all that entails with regard to schools, hospitals and other amenities.

It is believed that only the tribal trust lands as they now stand will be reserved for one race group, the Africans.

Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, is understood to be hoping to sell this dramatic measure to the right wing of his caucus by persuading them that only by doing this can Rhodesia hope to win the support of the Western powers for an internally negotiated constitutional settlement based on majority rule.

Such a settlement, it is believed, would involve the Government reaching an accommodation with the African nationalist faction led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the newly formed Zupo (Zimbabwe United People's Organization), which is led by two conservative tribal chiefs who were formerly members of Mr Smith's Government.

The Government sees Zupo, with its backing coming from the traditional tribal structure, as a moderate counterweight to the radical Muzorewa faction, with its mass support in the urban areas.

Zupo has already demanded the scrapping of all racially discriminatory legislation, including the Land Tenure Act.

There were plans for Mr Smith to address the nation on

radio and television this but, according to sources, this has been postponed until next week when Mr Smith will meet Mr Richard.

The British envoy is attempting to reinvigorate Geneva deliberations by forward detailed British proposals for a transitional government involving a British chief commissioner. The commissioner would have a 33 per cent vote in a council of six, one third of whom would be whites and two Indians.

Without knowing that the Rhodesian Government already publicly rejected British presence in the area, and Geneva sources made it clear that there will be no change at all.

Indeed, when they met Friday, Mr Smith will tell his plan for an internal settlement to Mr Richard and a British backlog for it.

Mr Richard is also scheduled to meet Bishop Muzorewa tomorrow afternoon and a key issue will be the bishoptude to Mr Smith's proposal for an internal settlement.

Mr Richard is understood to have accepted an invitation from Rhodesian business leaders to travel outside the capital to meet ordinary Rhodesians.

Rhodesian antipathy to Mr Richard is strong and he will, no doubt, be accompanied by courtesy, there is any confidence in his efficiency.

The Rhodesian leader expressed his doubts at Geneva conference will be dismissed.

Richard's current initiative as a "dead duck".

He has also made it clear that he has no intention reaching any accommodation with the Patriotic Front, Mr Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe. He considers that Mr Mugabe's forces have been invited to Geneva because, in his estimation, it was opposed to a peaceful settlement from the b

ring.

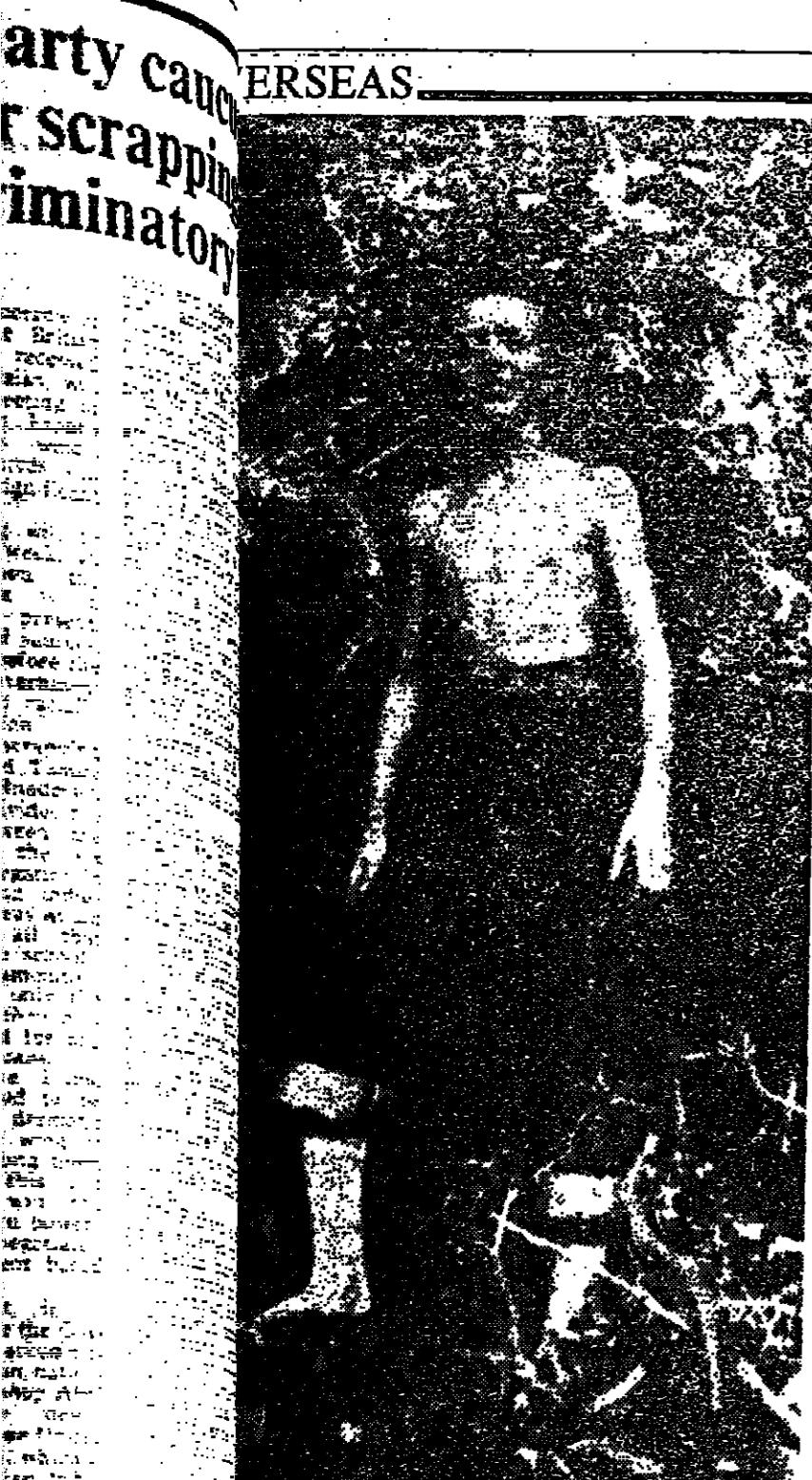
Mr Morarji Desai, the Indian opposition leader, who was freed from detention earlier this week.

In his dinner speech association, said that he hopes that the air would be cleared by the announcement by Gandhi of elections to be held in March.

The association hopes to set up a "Nehru Centre" in London where Indian organizations will be housed and where a library, conference room and exhibition room will accommodate members who want to follow events in India.

In his dinner speech

Swami Prakashananda, chairman of the Indian Association, said Professor D. P. Chattopadhyaya, the Indian Minister of Commerce, speaking at a first annual dinner of



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LIAMENT, January 19, 1977

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tion on the grounds of sheer

boredom and tedium even if there
were no other reasons, which there
were.

He had talked about competitive
free enterprise but when the steel
industry was privately owned there
was no competition and no
competition. There had been a competi-
tion in steel for the past 40 years.

In the thirties the private owners
carved up the market between
them to eliminate competition and a
Conservative Government White
Paper published in February, 1973,
stated that investment in the steel
industry in the states before
nationalization was low compared
with international competitors and
the companies from which the BSC
was formed in 1967 were finan-
cially weak.

That same White Paper asserted
that nationalization had brought
about a doubling in investment.
He also talked about restoring
the industry to ownership by the
people but he did not oppose
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Lord
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people living in villages

EEC fishing situation urgent: Britain equipped to patrol her waters

Mr Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs reporting on yesterday's meeting of the Council of Ministers in Brussels, the first under British Presidency said:

First we reviewed the progress made following the European Council's statement in November on talks with Japan about the current imbalance in trade. It became clear that very little progress had been made and the Council instructed the Commission to renew these talks especially on shipbuilding and report back to the remainder of the three-month interim period.

Relations with Portugal were discussed in the light of Dr Scars' forthcoming visits in the Community and the possibility of a Portuguese application for membership.

The Council agreed that we must find a way of reconciling our political stance towards democratic Portugal on which member governments are wholly agreed, with the economic problems which membership will entail both for Portugal and for the Community. The Council will revert to this subject in February.

Mr Frank Allard (Salford, East, Lab) said: "We have checked the figure last month that only 6 per cent of mortgages are going to houses costing less than £6,000. The poorer half of the community cannot obtain mortgages.

What proposals will be made to the building societies? Why not get them to lend 10 per cent of their funds to local authorities so that they can make loans, particularly to councils, who have had three cuts in the amount they can lend in the last two years?

Mr Shore—I am in close touch with the building societies on the general question of replacement lending for the cuts in local authority mortgage lending that we have had to impose. Within that effort we shall be directing particular attention to the problems of red lining and blue zoning

pare a Community position on the issues involved.

The Council had a useful and constructive discussion on fisheries. Most important, we agreed that further communications should be made by the Presidency to the Soviet Union, Poland and the German Democratic Republic, drawing attention to the continued excessive levels of their fishing in the waters of Community member states and laying down the precise number of those trawlers which would be permitted to fish in the remainder of the three-month interim period.

Only the authorized number of vessels will be licensed to fish, and it will be the responsibility of member states to operate and enforce this initial licensing system.

We did not reach agreement on a regulation governing the details of the present Community licensing system.

The Council also briefly discussed conservation measures, and will return to the matter on February 8. At agriculture ministers' first meeting in February, there is an opportunity to discuss it on January 25.

Mr John Davies (Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs (Knaresborough, C)) in relation to the satisfactory outcome for the negotiations with Israel will be signed on February 8. This will virtually complete the implementation of the Community's overall approach to the problems of the Mediterranean area.

The Council reviewed the prospects for the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation and agreed on a programme of work to pre-

pare fisheries and third countries, can be confined to the area which is west of us, at the rate of catch of the countries he mentioned, and some others, looks like exceeding, even during the first month, the total of the quarter's authorized catch?

Is he satisfied it is going to prove possible for the Community to move on to the substantial licensing of ships so there can be no doubts of those authorizations and those not?

What is the monitoring system to be put in place to ensure that there have been grave doubts cast on whether these will prove practicable.

As regards questions inter-Community, as against extra-Community—what arrangements are in hand for the interim purpose of the present Council meeting to produce a final solution but proceed in a step by step manner.

Mr Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn, Scot Nat)—I appreciate the problem about going step by step, but this step by step lead to a great difference in the interests of the fishing industry.

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Mr Crosland—On the Mediterranean, I agree that the conclusion of the overall approach has been a great success for the Community, but this has been within the framework of EEC community trade agreements and not political co-operation.

We are now moving to a position where the Community must extend its influence to the Middle East, and possibly Cyprus.

I confirm what Mr Davies said on third countries. The amount caught by the Soviet trawlers in the first month is at least equal to what was allocated for the whole

of the three months. That underlines the urgency of the situation with which we were dealing yesterday.

Am I satisfied that all countries will be able to operate a system of enforcement? I dare say some countries will be better able than others and there may be a certain ragged quality at the beginning. In this country we are equipped, and this applies to monitoring also, for our own home waters.

The interim internal regime has been put into operation since last time. We are going to take a long time to settle on an interim regulation let alone a permanent fisheries policy.

We have got to take this more slowly than in the past, and not take it at the gallop. We should not expect every Council meeting to produce a final solution but proceed in a step by step manner.

Mr Crosland—I accept the general point. Of course we want a Community negotiating position because the Community will not be able to act without beginning with strength than will Britain alone, but it is so, the Community cannot enforce the number of trawlers it has named, I would rather that Britain takes it than not do it at all.

It is necessary to get a more satisfactory situation than we have now and that is the entire object of the exercise.

Mr Walter Clegg (North Fylde, C)—Was there any mention of the Icelandic situation?

Mr Crosland—The position of Iceland is still the same. The negotiations at the Council on December 20 in that negotiations have not been resumed. There is hope that talks may be restarted but I would not wish to give any

extending to 50 miles. That is and extending the size of the area which is west of us, at the rate of catch of the countries he mentioned, and some others, looks like exceeding, even during the first month, the total of the quarter's authorized catch?

Is he satisfied it is going to prove possible for the Community to move on to the substantial licensing of ships so there can be no doubts of those authorizations and those not?

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Does the minister feel that the negotiations just forward at the meeting about national licensing allowed the Soviet block to duck out of the important responsibilities it has to recognize the Community and negotiate with Brussels as we have been forced to do, or chosen to do, in our fisheries negotiations with Iceland?

Mr Crosland—That was not referred to. It was not on the agenda. The Government have every intention of signing that convention on the first day it is available for signature.

Mr Neil Marten (Babylon, C)—Does he recall the White Paper we debated on January 10? Paragraph five refers to the great triumph of the Common Market for agreeing to combat international terrorism. Are we not seeing words and not action.

Mr Crosland—I have a lot of sympathy with what he says. Whether or not it was discussed yesterday, it is crucial that all the member states, all civilized governments, act not only according to the letter of the law but also to the spirit of the law, to accede to the spirit as well. Many people feel that this has not always been the case.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Transport (Financial Provisions) Bill; Second reading.

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Criminal Law Bill; Committee stage; Motion of no confidence in the Government; Resolution on the Financial Provisions Bill; Second reading.

Tories argue that devolution Bill will damage unity of kingdom

Mr Leon Brittan for the Opposition (Cleveland, Kincardine and Whitby, Lab) moved an amendment, with 22 related amendments, to assert the unity of the United Kingdom and the supreme authority of Parliament.

The amendment went far beyond the demands of the Shetland people themselves and far beyond that council was not representative of the people of Shetland.

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Mr Norman Buchan (West Renfrewshire, Lab) said no MP could give any guarantee to the Shetlands, the Orkneys or to any part of Scotland or to any part of the United Kingdom or any part of it. The amendment stated that nothing in the provisions should be construed as impairing or in any way affecting the unity of the United Kingdom.

Mr George Younger, an Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs (Ayr, C), said the question of the Bill was whether it was safe to leave the Orkneys and Shetland to the Assembly—that they should be devolved to the assembly—but that it could not be done if they said it could not be done. They were not having a revolution in Shetland.

It was the view of the amendment in Shetland that they did not want devolution, why should MPs say "You are going to have it?"

That was contrary to the whole purpose of the amendment and the Bill did not affect the unity of the United Kingdom or the supreme authority of Parliament.

The amendment was rejected.

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NEW BOOKS

The elusive intelligence

Poems of C. Day Lewis, 1925-1972

Chosen and with an introduction by Ian Parsons (Cape/Hogarth Press, £6.50)

Of all the young poets who squared their talents at the start of the 1930s the most elusive personality, by far, is that of

Cecil Day Lewis (1904-1972). Auden, Spender and Macneice

—particularly the first and last—still inhabit a place quite firmly, but how do you picture Day Lewis? Cultivated, well-read, donnish, serious and kindly. Not many laughs in his poems, though the face and eyes in photographs often crinkle with deep amusement. A man of the countryside and the earth responsible in company. A family man.

A noble choice for Poet Laureate, everyone agreed, and he cannot be said to have discharged the office with any more distinction than his

predecessors, the poem commissioned by the *Daily Mail* for the "Backing Britain" campaign in 1968 (remember that?) is now half lost and good deal better than some of Ian Parsons's preferred choices from earlier in his career. But the poet's privacy, and his elusiveness, remain.There seems, perhaps in consequence, to be some measure of disagreement as to the precise and lasting value of his poetry. The single, reasonably essential, poem chosen by Helen Gardner to represent his work in *The New Oxford Book of English Verse*—perhaps not entirely by chance—is a poem called "A Faunus", a poem included by Mr Parsons at all. Like the poet himself, Mr Parsons admits that Day Lewis wrote far too much verse under less than commanding impulses ("Phrase-making," dress-making—"Distinctions hard to find") and a good deal of uneven quality: in a very Lewisian image of harvest and husbandry, he

claims he has "winnowed" the best from the rest. At nearly 350 pages, one might be forgiven for thinking that he has not winnowed nearly enough, yet inevitably in a personal selection he has also omitted the wife, with the chaff:

*Do not grieve for beauty gone.**Limericks, like the sun,**Lend their lightness to cricket;**Child shall recreate the mother.*The common critical view of Day Lewis's work then and now—elaborated most recently by Samuel Hynes in *The Auden Generation*—is that he was at heart a Georgian lyricist straining muscles he did not possess to encompass connected "sequence-poems" in the effort to keep up with Auden's battle to make poetry public and political once more. In *A Hope for Poetry* (1934), a crucial document of the whole decade, Day Lewis revealingly quotes Housman—*Cavafy* and Blake and the link between "lyric irresponsibility" and madness. Day Lewis was utterly sane and thoroughly responsible, yet he possessed a lyric gift; on many occasions his talents, heart and brains seem to be in unproductive conflict with one another.Mr Parsons agrees with Professor Hynes to this extent: he has disregarded the poet's sequences at his editorial will, omitting roughly one-third of *Day Lewis's Transitional Poem* (1929), *From Feathers to Iron*, *The Magnetic Mountain* (1933) and *Overtures to Death* (1938)—enough to destroy what unity Day Lewis intended but, however, sufficiently achieved, not enough to allow us to judge how best poems stand by themselves. That task has still to be done.Hynes is generally unsympathetic to Day Lewis's work of the Thirties, missing the emotional resonance and even charm of many individual lines and short passages in particular. *The Magnetic Mountain*, but he is a good enough critic to offer one highly plausible clue to the poet's intractable awkwardness, and sometimes effortful changes of tack. Take these lines near the start of *Transitional Poems* (Mr Parsons omits them):*Damaged by the monstrous creditability*
Of all antinomies, I climbed the falls
To Easedale Tarn. Could I be child again
*And strip those skirts of cloud the marlbank sky**Dangled on mere and hillside?*

The monstrous credibility of all antinomies—meaning, I think, the seductiveness of both sides in an argument, the inevitability therefore of conflict, fighting and destruction. Day Lewis was not a Christian describing himself once as "churchy-agnostic" and sought for direction and guidance, for a ruling almost elsewhere in this somewhat consciously Wordsworthian passage, he strives to recapture the certainties of childhood and the natural elements; in 1935 the search for synthesis, as Hynes defines it, led him into the Communist Party. By 1939, and for the rest of the war, it had taken him to Virgil, whose entire work he translated with a brilliance and passion I find missing in much of his original work, and into working, for survival, the land.

Of Virgil, Mr Parsons happily includes the descent through Avernum in *Aeneid* VI, short passages from *Georgics* II and IV and the whole of *Elegiacs* Four and Ten; all marvellous. I'm sorry he has dropped the rather jolly account of a flight to Australia in *A Time to Dance* (1935) and a naval encounter in the Spanish Civil War from *Overtures to Death*, but he does give us the fine Greek myths of *Pegasus* (1957) and much of *A Visit to Italy* (1953), in which the "Letter from Rome" is a lively addition to the visitors' book of that city.

I'm not so sure that the longer lines of his work after 1940 will not prove more durable than the often all too controlled lyric impulse of the earlier poems, or that Mr Parsons, when describing him as a poet of the heart rather than the head, has not got it the wrong way round. The organising intelligence never lets go.

Michael Ratcliffe

SUSPENSE from Macmillan**John Bingham
GOD'S DEFECTOR**'Situations are Bingham's forte, and this is a humdinger. Priest goes atheist with a beltful of explosive confessions. Whitehall intelligence moves in. Read on! H. R. F. Keating, *The Times* £3.25**John Buxton Hilton
GAMEKEEPER'S GALLows**Victorian fuzz investigate traffic in wenches in rural Derbyshire... conveys a sense of period, place and sensuality! Matthew Cady, *Guardian* £2.95**David Fletcher
ACCOMPlices**Fletcher really understands how we tick. If Proust had written a mystery, this might be it! H. R. F. Keating, *The Times* £3.50**John Wainwright
THE BASTARD**'A compulsive explosion of dramatic force... as tough Yorkshire detective and CID inspector trek through blizzards to arrest bank-rober' Campbell Spray, *Yorkshire Post* £2.95**Pauline Glen Winslow
THE BRANDENBURG HOTEL**'A classic whodunit; Miss Winslow gets better and better... this is a 1940s period piece... when a beautiful model is battered to death in the grounds of a luxury hotel' Michael Heron, *Yorkshire Post* £3.25**M MACMILLAN LONDON****ALISTAIR MACLEAN**
his new bestseller
SEAWITCH
£3.50 Collins**1902 was the year of**

The Wings of the Dove, Just So Stories, The Path to Rome, The Varieties of Religious Experience, The Hound of the Baskervilles, L'Immoraliste, Peter Rabbit, Pelléas et Mélisande, The Admirable Crichton and

The Times Literary Supplement

The world's leading literary journal first appeared on 17 January that year.

This week's TLS is a 48-page

75th anniversary numberIn this special issue:
New etchings by David Hockney of The Man with the Blue Guitar; Keith Thomas writes on Laughter in Tudor and Stuart England. Other contributors include:

Kenneth Clark, Stuart Pigott, Anthony Burgess, Louis Auchincloss, Dan Jacobson, Hugh Honour, S. Prawer, D. J. Enright, Glyn Daniel, David Daiches.

TLS
THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT**Lone sailor****Come Hell or High Water**

By Clare Francis

(Pelham, £4.25)

Clare Francis finished thirteen overall out of 125 starters in the 1976 Observer Singlehanded Transatlantic Race. Here was the first British nonstop to arrive in Newport, Rhode Island, and she set a new women's record of 29 days.

Her book, *Come Hell or High Water*, describes how she came to be competing in the race and what it was like. I found it most authentic, conveying a sense of fear and exhilaration, monotony and unpredictability which make singlehanded sailing a unique experience. It shows how this small woman was able to compete with many of the most experienced men and demonstrates again that physical strength is not the most important attribute of a singlehanded sailor.

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Miss Francis certainly needed all of her determination to sail

Nicolette Milnes Walker

The review of *Mariina Warner's Alone of all her Sex* last week was by Philippa Toomey.Reviews next week: A. S. Byatt on Coleridge's *Poetic Intelligence* by John Beer; David Piper on John Skeaping's memoirs; J. C. Trewin on Robert Speaight's *Shakespeare: The Man and His Achievement*.Reviews next week: A. S. Byatt on Coleridge's *Poetic Intelligence* by John Beer; David Piper on John Skeaping's memoirs; J. C. Trewin on Robert Speaight's *Shakespeare: The Man and His Achievement*.Reviews next week: A. S. Byatt on Coleridge's *Poetic Intelligence* by John Beer; David Piper on John Skeaping's memoirs; J. C. Trewin on Robert Speaight's *Shakespeare: The Man and His Achievement*.Reviews next week: A. S. Byatt on Coleridge's *Poetic Intelligence* by John Beer; David Piper on John Skeaping's memoirs; J. C. Trewin on Robert Speaight's *Shakespeare: The Man and His Achievement*.Reviews next week: A. S. 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Reviews next week: A. S. Byatt on Coleridge's <i

ENTERTAINMENTS

Telephone 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

ERA & BALLET

EDWARD GOREY 1044 (Gordon's) 01-836 1044. **OLIVER STONE** 226 6003. **NOVAK'S FILM** 2nd floor, Savoy Hotel, 7-8pm. **SACRED JEWEL** 10pm. **THE OMEGA** cancelled. **THE OMEGA** 10pm. **ON THE RIVER** 10pm. **THE MUSICAL** 6pm. **FOR DAD** 7pm. **THE MUSICAL** 6pm. **FOR DAD** 7pm.

NATIONAL OPERA

A NIGHT IN VENICE 7pm.**LE TRAVAIL** Sat. 8pm. **SET & WEED** 8pm.**PIERRE** 7pm. **ROSEBERRY AVE.** 7.30pm.**SULLIVAN'S EYES** 7.30pm.**WEDDING BELLS** 8pm.**CONCERTS****BERT LEE** 10pm. **THEATRUM** 7pm.**JOHN KIRKTHORPE** 8pm.**SPRING** 8pm. **PERIOD** 8pm.**THEATRES****THEATRE** 01-836 7611.**THEATRE 5.0.** 8pm. 4.0pm.**IT'S REVIVING OLD TUNES****IN COMEDY** 7pm.**IRENE****ISICAL MUSICAL****THING** 7pm.**INFLAMED** 8pm.**GRIND CARD****SHOOTING STAR** 8pm.**AT 5.0.** Seats from £1.**£1.50****£1.20****£1.00****£0.80****£0.60****£0.50****£0.40****£0.30****£0.20****£0.10****£0.05****£0.02****£0.01****£0.00**

Getting touchy over speaking with too many tongues in Brussels

Brussels
Making his maiden appearance before the Brussels press corps last week, Mr Roy Jenkins, the new president of the European Commission, read out a brief and innocuous statement (in English) about his policy aims over the next four years.

After he had finished, a Belgian television reporter asked him to repeat what he had said in French. Mr Jenkins declined, pointing out, accurately enough, that his predecessor, M. François-Xavier Ortoli, had made a similar statement in French on his arrival in Brussels and had not felt the need to reread it in English.

An hour or two later Belgian Radio was reporting that the new president had "obstinately refused" to speak French, and the next day the same network's Paris correspondent was claiming that the incident had aroused widespread disquiet in the French capital.

It would be wrong to make too much of a minor episode, but Mr Jenkins was receiving his first lesson in one of the unwritten commandments of the Community: thou shalt pretend that French is still the universal language of diplomacy.

Tactically, Mr Jenkins would have done better, even at some risk of personal embarrassment, to have called on his reserves of grammar-school French and stumbled through a few sentences in the tongue of Racine and Molière. It is, after all, the thought that counts.

Few subjects touch such sensitive nationalist nerves as language. To all intents and purposes, the EEC is now a multi-lingual organization with six official tongues—French, English, German, Italian, Dutch and Danish.

Full interpretation facilities have to be provided for all meetings of any importance whether at the level of ministers or officials, and all working documents have to be translated into the six official languages. Some 38 per cent of the entire staff of the European Commission are engaged in translation work of one kind or another.

None the less, French is still *primum inter pares*. Among European Commission officials, it remains the nearest thing to a "lingua franca", even though

Michael Hornsby

Why Cairo wants peace at nearly any price

Egypt wants peace and needs peace. This was the main burden of the talk I had with President Sadat in Cairo a week ago, and it is the message repeated by all of the ministers, politicians and officials I met. There is nothing really surprising about this, as President Sadat has made his intentions abundantly clear in the past. The Egyptian economy is under considerable strain and still precariously balanced between the war footing on which it has had to be maintained for so long and the peacetime footing to which the president has tried to bring it back over the past two or three years.

The whole infrastructure of the country (bureaucracy, communications, transport) needs a complete overhaul. Massive investment from abroad is being sought for long-term industrial and agricultural projects. It is impossible to do all this and

prepare for war at the same time.

So the Egyptian government and people are acutely aware of the need for a Middle East peace settlement and President Sadat who was looking more relaxed and sounding more optimistic than at any of the many other meetings I have had with him over the past six years, has already shown his determination to do what he can to get negotiations off the starting line again.

Identically, of course, he would like to see a settlement in 1977. That, he realizes, may not be possible, but at least there must be enough progress this year to hold out the virtual certainty of a settlement in 1978.

If there is no progress in 1977 because of Israeli delaying tactics, President Sadat sees no way of escaping another war. Naturally, he would regard this as a catastrophe for Egypt as

well as for all the other countries that would be involved. But he is convinced that the present state of limbo cannot continue indefinitely. The alternatives are a settlement or war.

The timing of the main diplomatic initiatives to be launched in 1977 remains elastic, but the aim is to make certain that the Geneva Conference is reconvened in the summer or early autumn. The president was realistic about the fact that an earlier meeting would not give time for the Carter administration to emerge from the election extravagances and reassess the realities and dangers of the Middle East situation in a sober frame of mind.

Exerting the influence

In particular, it is hoped that when the administration comes to appreciate the significance of the unusually happy position enjoyed by the United States and by the West generally in the Arab world, it will act in Western interests by exerting influence which it alone can command.

At the same time, I found in

Cairo a new awareness of the dangers of putting all one's eggs in one (American) basket. A variety of diplomatic initiatives are envisaged. A good start has already been made with the Soviet foreign ministers meeting at improving relations with the Soviet Union. The president spoke of his hope that Europe would be able to play a more relevant part in the coming months. This seems to fit in with what is known of Mr Carter's thinking on the subject, though I found it depressing to be told that France and West Germany are regarded as being much more actively interested in searching for a settlement than is the case.

It was pointed out to me that, with the exception of the countries directly involved, Western Europe would suffer most from a renewed war. The attainment of a lasting peace in the Middle East should therefore be the first priority of European foreign policy.

One thing that is helping the president's efforts is the much healthier look presented by the Arab world as a whole this year than last. The acrimonious dispute between Egypt and Syria has been satisfactorily concluded and good relations re-

tored with unexpected speed. This highly significant development, which would have seemed a remote possibility as recently as September of last year, is a reminder of how seemingly insubstantial inter-Arab disputes can be settled quickly.

Relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia remain good and close, and although inevitably there are strains caused by the borrower-lender relationship, the combination of increasingly experienced Saudi diplomacy and greater Egyptian self-confidence makes it possible to surmount them with relative ease.

The basis and springboard for any effective Arab diplomatic action—Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia—is once again in being.

Cairo seems confident that the Palestinian leadership will in due course come to accept the inevitability of such a linkage, and it was repeatedly pointed out to me by all whom I spoke, including Mahmoud Riad, Secretary-General of the Arab League, that an association was in the interests of the Palestinians and that without it a new Palestinian state would not be viable. The economy of the West Bank was geared to that of the East Bank, and one and a half million Palestinians live in Jordan and are already Jordanian citizens.

The chances for peace have never been better and the United States State Department is fully aware of this reality; but as always the real question is whether the Israelis really want a settlement which is generally acceptable. Will they give up territories in exchange for peace, and, if not, will the United States exercise the pressure which is necessary to persuade them?

Dennis Walters
The author is Conservative MP for Westbury and is joint chairman of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

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The Times Diary

On the stopping train to Saigon

although he might admit this to me, is that after the endless bashes and pins from the Siberian countryside. To the social life of the long-distance rail carriage is rich and varied, and the lubricant qualities of vodka and pocket chess combine to produce amorous encounters over ersatz samovars.

At 8.55 on Tuesday evening, having left his Peking hotel, he boards for Hanoi, where he arrives 12 days after leaving London via Hankow. There is only the last lap of the journey to Saigon to complete, but it is here that he meets his Waterloo. He loses his faithful Cook to find stations between Hanoi and Saigon conveniently listed. But the distance between the two cities is curiously shown as 0 km, and, more to the point, there are no trains.

Watch it

If you remember "Cough and Sneeze Spread Disease" then you remember Richard Massingham. He has the face of a bloodhound who appeared in Government short films in the 1940s urging people to bathe in five inches of water, post early for Christmas and cross a road sensibly.

Massingham, who died in 1952, has three evenings of programmes devoted to his work at the National Film Theatre next week, including his first amateur productions when he

was working at the London Fever Hospital. Tell me if it hurts, is described as "a ferocious black joke at the expense of dentists" and Another case of poisoning a cautionary tale which results from eating dubious porto pies or drinking from dirty glasses in pubs. You have been warned.

An anti-smoking advertisement in The Guardian declares that "one-third of all smokers will die". If the others achieve immortality, it might be worth starting.

Fertile field

For the second time this week I encountered my colleagues from the gardening press yesterday. This is the time when, or so manufacturers of garden products assume, the experts are compiling their bumper spring articles. The assiduous green-fingered scribe thus has to endure a hectic round of buffet lunches at the better London hotels.

Yesterday we were the guests of David Hessyan, the author of "Be Your Own Gardening Expert" series. They are cheap, brisk, down-to-earth guides on what to do in the garden, particularly on how to recognize pests and eliminate them. I have always particularly admired the restraint by which

Hessyan avoids excessive pro-

motion of the products of the chemical company which publishes the works.

I admired it even more yesterday when I learnt that Hessyan, far from being the dour, impartial scientist which his books led me to believe, is in fact the bouncy chairman of the chemical company in question. A genial former journalist, he would qualify as a whiz-kid were he a bit younger. As it is, he is simply a whiz.

The new book contains no reference to his firm's products at all. It is called *Be Your Own House Plant Spotter* and gives concise, easy-to-follow descriptions of 500 varieties of house plant. It is designed for the amateur people who have no idea just what that mass of pretty leaves in their living room really is, and thus can discover how to look after it.

(Having identified it, they have to buy one of Hessyan's earlier books for cultivation instructions, since the new one does not deal with that aspect.)

The initial print order was for half a million, selling at 35p each. On the basis of advance orders, there is to be a reprint before publication on February 2nd.

Hessyan's last booklet, *Vegetable Plotter*, was in the best-seller lists for several weeks during the summer, and there is no reason to believe that this one will not do as well. Nice to hear of a former journalist making good in something so worth while.

Testing

Possibly to make amends for having besieged the local shopping precinct wearing space suits and welding collecting boxes, the Brunel University students invited the citizens of Billingsgate and Uxbridge to visit their campus yesterday. The open day was part of Rag Week,

Will President Ford's term of office be remembered as the Kissinger years?

Dr Kissinger's is indeed seen as "foreign policy" for past three years, an influence for the United States and the painful transitional processes which began with his defeat seemingly so long ago in last November's elections. Such an extended transition is no mean test of endurance, for in American politics, as is seen now as just everything, but the only thing.

Mr Ford's pride, as he said in his farewell State of the Union message, is to be passing the country on to Jimmy Carter in better shape than he found it. His disappointment is that not enough countrymen thought his performance warranted giving him a full term of his own.

It should not have surprised him. No one, after all, considered him a potential President during 25 years in Congress. No one, that is, until a desperate Richard Nixon thought of him in 1973 as the one man to appoint as replacement Vice-President who could not be taken seriously as his own replacement.

He was wrong. But Mr Ford's mistake was to be persuaded he could go even further. He substituted some others, too, confidently predicting that Mr Ford would become a second Truman, and surprise everyone with his political acumen.

The final messy East Asia was an accomplishment, as was his acceptance of Peace Prize for the agreement now looks like a failure. But there were several signal accomplishments. One is to have cut the Presidency down to size, after the years of Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. It may be that Americans now again want someone larger than us. We shall see.

But there can be no doubt that "Good old Jerry", with his spirited wife and their likable children, again made the White House seem a human place, with rather ordinary, or "average", virtues and failings. There may have been no inspiration, but nobody can have slept uneasily in spite of the things he left undone, and in spite of the one daring act that blighted his beginning.

That, it is here suggested, will be remembered as his second achievement—the part of his predecessor. Hand-sight shows that this one act will allow it to be. If it suits the majority it can bring the Government down. But will it?

With a last round of brave smiles, Gerald Ford today relinquishes his office bringing "foreign policy" for the United States and the painful transitional processes which began with his defeat seemingly so long ago in last November's elections. Such an extended transition is no mean test of endurance, for in American politics, as is seen now as just everything, but the only thing.

Dr Kissinger leaves the same time as his patron, Vice-President Rockefeller. He is leaving a review of 1 history will of course last word, as he knows not be long before comes tumbling off, but in the meantime recall briefly the difficulties he bot with and worsened.

He believed that point was the decline of United States power relative to superpowers and powers so that the basic policy would unbind.

He was perhaps or by his Weintraub-like American right and of recompensation" came.

The final messy of East Asia was an accomplishment, as his acceptance of Peace Prize for the agreement now looks like a failure. His pursuit with Union of detente under earlier administration remains unfinished with the triumphed of peace" still not restoration of China was a beginning of accommodation, slight.

Dr Kissinger's fail apparent difficulty standing or man equal status of the President in the system. He would t preferred the executive branch. It is a that if he had his over again, he would ferret unleashing in outset, the fury brought to bear in 1972, in the interest it all sooner.

Not for him the plistic lesson from Vane, his successor. vention there was a wealth beyond his immediate needs, book royalties start will be taken care \$15,000 six-month at Washington's G University from Marc

He is to have the professor of the university's Foreign Service—a graduate institution Counsellor at the Center for Strategic National Studies a unit.

Sensing his own limitations Mr Ford allowed his officers great rein. With some it worked. With others the success was questionable—the economy was handled poorly and for a man who enjoys such warm personal relations with individuals, Mr Ford demonstrated, strikingly, the lack conservative Congressman's insensitivity and lack of compassion towards society's poor and disadvantaged.

In foreign policy Mr Ford stuck with the Secretary of State he inherited as his "tutor", and was perhaps too much in thrall of him just when his influence went into sharp decline.

Fred

Two days in a cold bath

82 year old widow trapped by fall and rescued after 48 hours endurance

Old Jane has needed to be plucky all her life—she endured wartime tragedy, made a total recovery from cancer, and from partial paralysis. She needed all her bravery to survive a recent fall in her bath. Unable to move she endured the cold until, by good fortune, the home help on her weekly visit called the police when unable to enter the flat. After some weeks in hospital Jane has recovered.

Help The Aged needs your support to help prevent such tragic situations: To enable more volunteer care to be organised; to stop the suffering of loneliness by starting more Day Centres; to initiate Day Hospital Centres so that those needing treatment can get it, yet live at home; to send food and medical aid to old people in dire need.

In thankfulness for your blessings help one brave old man or woman:

£5 is a "real help" towards another centre.
£30 helps provide a Geriatric Day Hospital.
£150 inscribes the name of someone dear to you on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybrick-King, Help The Aged, Room 37, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ (No stamp needed).

* Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

مكتبة من الأصل

Ronald Butt

Do they really want to bring the House down?

Mr Callaghan has again indicated, as clearly as he can without giving hostages to fortune, that there will be no early election. As to the matter of fact, he may be right. The election could be a long way off. If the choice is left to the Prime Minister we shall wait until the oil comes in, the benefits of the present oil glut, the Labour policy is repeated and until the public is in a more friendly mood towards the Government, which means that it will be quite a long time before Mr Callaghan wants us to vote again.

What is more, to carry on as long as possible is wholly in line with the general constitutional convention that parliaments ought normally to be allowed to run most of their natural lives so long as the House of Commons provides governments with sufficient support to enable them to govern.

Prime Ministers are not supposed to go rushing to the country beforehand without good reason and simply to strengthen their parliamentary position. When they do so, they often come unstuck, as in 1974 and 1975.

Mr Callaghan holds office simply because there exists no basis on which all the present opposition parties can combine against it.

There is, to start with, the accident of Mr Enoch Powell's association with the Ulster Unionists. But there is also the death of this Government and failure at the next election, which hope to bring it down if they choose. The left hate so much of what the Government is doing economically that they might have overthrown it long since.

Only the politically naive could expect the left to pull the house down when it is doing so well in capturing the party machine and the constituency parties which will determine the political complexion of future Labour MPs, and when it motivates what Mr Crookshank has graphically described as the antics of the NEC.

So the left carefully restricts itself to the sort of demonstration it could safely indulge in last week when 77 left-wingers voted against the defence cuts as insufficient, and knew the Government would still be safe in office because the Opposition was bound to abstain. But what about the right, where the discontent is hardly less acute?

Quite a revolt was expected from them in a contrary sense over defence. And what happened? Mr Prentice, Mr John Macintosh and Mr Crawford abstained on the substantive defence vote rather than go into the Tory lobby. Well, who can blame them? They

have to serve their cause as they think best and define what their cause is.

They have also to decide what to do with the Labour link which is tied to its machine and whose members dare not upset it for fear of destroying their own political lives.

So let nobody say that the House of Commons is powerless because the system allows the Government to do what it likes. The truth is that the power of the House of Commons is always no less, and no more, than what suits the majority of its members in any given situation. And it has suited enough of the fragmented Opposition to accept measures of socialism they care little for rather than face the consequences of turning the Government out.

But, of course, it doesn't stop there. With such a knife-edge "majority" as the Government enjoys, it would be quite possible for the disaffected elements in the Labour Party to bring it down if they chose. The left hate so much of what the Government is doing economically that they might have overthrown it long since.

Only the politically naive could expect the left to pull the house down when it is doing so well in capturing the party machine and the constituency parties which will determine the political complexion of future Labour MPs, and when it motivates what Mr Crookshank has graphically described as the antics of the NEC.

So, on balance, it suits almost everybody, the Nationalists, the Liberals, Mr Powell, Mr Heffer, Mr Mackintosh and even Mr Prentice, perhaps, to keep things as they are. It also suits Mr Callaghan, but not Mrs Thatcher. Everyone has to plough his own furrow.

I don't blame them. But we certainly can't blame the inadequacies

ill President
term of office
remembered as
Kissinger year



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INTERBURY AND ROME

expressing *odium theorum* theory lacks employment these It connotes the acerbity of which theologians were o dispute their relish in down eat other's arguments and the pinnacles with they fortified their own ns and set out to destroy those of their opponents. can still be heard—fromized pulpits in Belfast or me of the controversy around the name of Arch-lefeuvre. But in the us field of ecumenical y all has changed. A new sion is required man-theologica perhaps.

method of the new ine is to identify and areas of agreement, and sidereal differences to a argument removed from which the previous war had been conducted. For propose a new vocabulary is found useful, prefer- f antique resonance put ed by sectarian or ple-scares. Such a wed-ia (community? fellow-communion of faith), ke a thread through nd final production of the an-Roman Catholic Inter- Commission—an agreed ent on "Authority in the

crux on this occasion is of the Pope. The line of argument is that the beginning pastoral in the local Christian nities has repented pri- in the bishop "who is able for preserving and the integrity of the in order to further the response to the Lord- Christ and its commit- to mission"; that in fashion the *koimonia* of strict local churches is realized in their com- with one another, for purpose both councils and bishops have been appropriate or necessary; at extension ecumenical is and a bishop of al primacy were recog- the natural seat for that being in Rome. This document is vague about ture of the authority and of the jurisdiction exercis- by bishop, primates and especially. A bishop, we id, "can require the com- necessary to maintain and charity" in the daily the community over which arches. No such power to

the primacy ought to be understood and, in the light of that understanding, practised. Anglicans may require a great deal of persuading that, were they formally to acknowledge the primacy of Rome, the animal they would actually encounter, including the elaborate apparatus of church government surrounding it, would answer to that description. Roman Catholics may experience no less difficulty in endorsing what is bound to seem to many of them a dilution of the papal office and so of the principle of unity and orthodoxy within their church.

The statement finishes with a common declaration that it would be appropriate in any future union for a universal primacy such as that described to be held by the see of Rome. Or rather, the statement does not finish there, but goes on to record briefly that problems still arise over such matters as the doctrine of papal infallibility, the status of the so-called Petrine texts in the Gospels, the question whether communion with Rome is a necessary condition of a church's catholicity, and the claim that the Pope possesses universal immediate jurisdiction—a fairly formidable list.

Nevertheless the statement the commission has agreed shows a convergence of opinion remarkable by any reckoning. On the Anglican side there is readiness to acknowledge that union must incorporate the active primacy of Rome, albeit within "conventional" limits which are indicated without being defined.

The Roman Catholic side there is a desire to lower the key and reduce the substance of the highly developed papal claims, and choose more circumspectly the ground for their justification. No act of submission. The yoke, if it be, is of velvet.

Now with the commission's earlier statements on the Eucharist and the ministry this one should enable the moment of unity to be mainly avoided, and it is a very large proviso, the two churches large can embrace these positions with the cordiality of conviction with which they are offered by the theologians to agree them.

There has been some stickiness in the reception accorded the earlier texts of the commission, and so it is likely to be again. The commission's description of the Roman primacy is normative: this is how, in its opinion,

E ECONOMIC TRAGEDY OF EGYPT

lmost a tradition in Egypt he month of January is i by demonstrations of and economic discontent, more or less explicit ul overtones. They are led by workers from the steelworks and students Cairo University. There ally some damage to ty and a number of arrests of those arrested being whom the Government to intimidate rather than et instigators of the riots. year things have gone further. There has been not only in Cairo but in tria as well, and so that it has forced Presid- to give the police to fire at demonstrators to call in the army, to a 4-hour curfew for the ne since the 1952 revolution to revoke—or st suspend—the price is the Government had ed on Monday that had the outburst. Not only there were rumours ro yesterday that the Minister, Mr. Moustafa had resigned. These apparently premature, but nation is clearly bad to call for a scapegoat if not the Prime himself, it is likely at his deputy, Mr. Abd- al-Qasim, the "father Egyptian economy" who cently recalled to the from the chairmanship Arab International Bank. financial background to of the past two days be easily comprehensible readers, for Egypt's ic situation is in some ke a nightmarish caricature our own. Foreign debts

are believed to amount to £15,000 million. The budget deficit was about £130 million on a total expenditure of nearly £6,000 million. There continues to be very rapid inflation growth. In fact, Egypt is fully dependent on a foreign market which is increasingly hard to find.

Last week the foreign minister walked out in despair from a meeting at which his colleague, from the oil-rich Arab states, were unwilling to accept his plea for increased financial support. As for foreign capital investment, that has not responded on anything like the hoped-for scale to President Sadat's "open-door" policy. It has been deterred partly by the lack of a full settlement of the conflict with Israel, and partly by the many infrastructural and bureaucratic bottlenecks in Egyptian society.

The two drawbacks are connected, for Egypt remains a war economy (spending more than a quarter of its gap on the armed forces, which also absorb an unquantifiable proportion of its human energies and talents). The country's productive capacity has been increasingly underutilized, while its infrastructure has decayed to the point where elementary services such as the telephone have become virtually unusable.

The result has been, of course, roaring inflation, against which Egypt's lower and middle classes had been very partially cushioned by government subsidies on the prices of basic commodities such as foodstuffs and petrol. Mr. Qasim, appointed to negotiate a rescheduling of Egypt's debts through the International Monetary Fund, had accepted the

their property, free and without charge.

3) If they prefer to stay in the Old City, they are free to take cash from the rehousing agency instead of the suggested flats, and can settle in the Moslem, Christian or Armenian quarters, according to their choice and denomination.

4) The entire Jewish Quarter was classified as sub-standard, and all is being reconstructed. In the new premises, priority is given to Jewish applicants, notably the old-time residents who were driven out when the Jordanian Army took over in 1948.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KIRVINE,
Economic Correspondent,
Jerusalem Post,
27a He-Haluz Street,
Jerusalem,
January 14.

Polish workers
From Professor Charles Taylor
Sir. Among other signs of increasing repression in Eastern Europe, it is distressing to learn that the Polish Government has indicted

three families were offered new four room modern flats and new Nusseby housing.

Beth Hanina, Jerusalem, apartments were to become

members of the Workers Defense Committee for allegedly carrying out an "illegal collection of funds". The funds concerned were destined for the legal defence of workers who have been victimized for their part in the strikes and protests Radom last year, and also for the support of their families, since many of these workers have been deprived of their jobs and of all means of livelihood. Now some of these funds have also been confiscated.

After some months of minor harassment of committee members, the Government has now decided to treat this form of defence of civil rights as a crime. It is to be hoped that international public opinion will deter the Polish Government from this action, which makes a mockery of the Helsinki agreement, not to speak of that Government's own pretensions to be a workers' state, and constitutes a particularly ugly form of political repression.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES TAYLOR,
Professor of Social and Political Theory,
All Souls College,
Oxford.
January 17.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL PAUL,
The Pres Council,
1 Salisbury Square, EC4.
January 17.

Yours faithfully,
MARIAN CALWELL,
5 Essex Court,
Temple, EC4.
January 17.

Churches and black unions in S Africa

From The Reverend Harry O. Morton and others

Sir, We believe that support for the week of protest against the South African Government's move to cripple the emerging black trade union movement should not be confined to trade unionists. As a result of Britain's strong historical and commercial links with South Africa, all the British people and especially the business community have a duty to register their profound objection to banning and detention without trial of anyone, including, especially this week, those involved in organizing black trade unions.

For many years there has been a serious debate as to whether British industry could justify its presence in South Africa by claiming among other things that the economic benefit which it brought to the black community and the power which it could deploy to encourage and hasten reform substantially outweighed the undoubted moral and economic support which it offered the apartheid regime.

The relative success of the campaign to raise wages to more reasonable levels, at least in the commercial and industrial sectors, and the indications that leading British companies were beginning to accept the need for real negotiations with genuine representatives of their black labour force, had encouraged the belief that developments in the business world could indeed contribute towards a radical change in the position of the blacks in South Africa. Recent events, however, have undermined the basis of such an interpretation.

Following dramatic protests by young urban blacks, which have continued since the first confrontation of schoolchildren with the police on June 16, 1976, any pressure for reform emanating from the business community has met with a blank refusal on the part of the South African Government. The South African Government has given no proper reply to the suggestions for reform put forward by the Transvaal Chamber of Commerce.

On October 18, 1976, Mr Vorster told businessmen at the Associated Chambers of Commerce Conference to stop meddling in politics, saying "giving in to unreasonable requests from business organizations would be adulterating the whole political process of the Republic". Furthermore, the banning of those concerned with the development of independent black trade unions has demonstrated the Government's determination to close off the most promising avenue along which the business community could move towards putting the relationship of blacks and whites on a new footing.

Meanwhile there is a less ambitious objective than corporate reunion, and its achievement would give satisfaction enough to be going on with: sacramental inter-communion between Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations on the basis of mutual respect and a sufficiency of doctrinal agreement, leaving aside differences about church order of which those raised by the papacy are the most stubborn.

latter's argument that this was only possible if the Government adopted a programme of financial stringency, including a reduction of the subsidies—which meant, of course, a further sudden increase in the price of staple commodities. It sought to soften the blow by simultaneously raising the salaries and pensions of civil servants, which had failed by far to keep pace either with the cost of living or with the profits made by a small class of profiteers in such areas as real estate and import-export. But this appears only to have increased the rage of other categories of the population.

President Sadat himself has come in for his share of insults from the demonstrators, but there is no reason to think his own position is seriously endangered as yet. He may even come to take the credit for reviving a hasty decision taken by a Government and referring the issue, like a good democrat, to the newly elected parliament. But he probably had a bad fright, and even if the riots subside, the economic problem will not go away. Those who value the existence of a moderate Egyptian regime, both in the Arab world and in the West, would be well advised to take note that such a regime cannot survive indefinitely without more effective support, both financial and political. The argument put by Mr Dennis Walters on the opposite page—that the present opportunity for a negotiated settlement in the Middle East should be seized quickly— one that ought to be considered very seriously by the new administration.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY O. MORTON,
General Secretary,
British Council of Churches,
B.C. BUTLER,
Catholic Institute for
International Relations,
TREVOR JEPSON,
Chairman, Christian Concern
for Southern Africa,
1 Cambridge Terrace,
Regents Park, NW1.
January 16.

From Mr C. H. Sisson

Sir, As one who was once much concerned with Civil Service training, both as the establishment officer of a major department and

On the grounds that pressure by investors has proved inadequate and that therefore the argument that economic growth can produce fundamental change has been proved false, the Christian Institute of Southern Africa supports the call for no further investment in South Africa. Unless the Government of South Africa can reverse its present course, the British Churches will be impelled by events to reconsider that call.

We ask all those who seek peaceful change in South Africa to join us in appealing to the British Government to make the strongest representations to the Government of South Africa, to lift the banning orders and allow the development of free and independent black unions.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
TREVOR JEPSON,
Chairman, Christian Concern for Southern Africa,
1 Cambridge Terrace,
Regents Park, NW1.
January 16.

From Mr Alan Mattingly

Sir, I agree with Mr Acworth (January 12). Temple Bar should be left where it is and restored on site.

At the moment it stands at a quiet and attractive location on a popular walking route in North London's Green Belt. If its structure and facade were repaired, and if a certain amount of sensitive landscaping in the immediate vicinity were carried out, there would be no more suitable spot from which to admire this outstanding piece of architecture.

And, of course, it would cost a great deal less to do this than to shift Temple Bar, stone by stone, back to the City.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MATTINGLY,
5 Margaret Court,
Vicars Moor Lane, N2.

January 18.

Lambeth, however, would have had 19 units to use instead of bed and breakfast. Thus in the first 12 months alone they would have saved 19 (units) times £43 (average weekly cost of bed and breakfast) times 52 (weeks) making a total of £42,484. In five years the saving to Lambeth ratepayers would thus have been £212,420 and the saving to public funds as a whole would have been £212,420 less the initial £57,000. Clearly a considerable sum.

The Labour (majority) Group on Lambeth Council meets next Monday (January 17) and, hopefully, they will bear these figures in mind when they discuss St Agnes Place. Perhaps they will also bear in mind the fact that in 1974-75 Lambeth spent £163,316 on bed and breakfast and that in 1975-76 the figure was £45,886 and that the projection for this year is £50,000 and, hopefully, therefore, they will help the demolition of St Agnes Place and accept a scheme for its renovation, and so save vast amounts of ratepayers' money.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of Lambeth's eventual plans for St Agnes Place, and whatever motivates those councillors who want to demolish it to prolong the agony of those awaiting deferred death in condemned cells, but also to the conditions under which men are confined for long sentences. If we in this country have, as I believe, rightly abolished the death penalty (in practice if not in theory), we are bound to devote far more attention and resources to the rehabilitation of those who have been reprieved. We owe it both to them and to those in the prison service whom we have delegated to keep them for long periods segregated from society.

It is, therefore, doubly disappointing to read of the bureaucratic obstacles which, according to your excellent article (January 18), have foiled the attempts by the Burnbank Trust to build up the self-confidence and self-respect of long term prisoners by art therapy. It is surely in the interests of all of us that the prisoner should not only be encouraged to discover elements of creativity within himself, but also (as Swedish experiments have abundantly shown) to have a nest egg and some work projects with which to start a new life on his eventual release.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM DOWELL,
Hampstead Parish Church,
Church Row, NW3.
January 18.

From Mrs Helen Kaye

Sir, Now that "death on request" and the right to "die with dignity" have been accepted in areas of the civilized world, surely the claim of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society will also receive recognition.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN KAYE,
Little Friars,
Brockenhurst Road,
Ascot,
Berkshire.
January 18.

From Mr G. F. Huskisson

Sir, I was surprised and sorry to read of Mr Morley's difficulty at Euston in reserving a sleeper berth for his return journey from Liverpool (Letters, January 18).

Arrangements do exist at Euston Travel Centre to make return reservations and the transaction should have presented no difficulty. I am looking urgently into the facts to find out what went wrong and to put the matter right.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. HUSKISSON,
Divisional Manager,
British Railways London Midland
Region,
Euston House,
Euston Road, NW1.
January 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Educating our masters

From Professor R. J. Ball and Professor T. Kempner

Sir, By implication, your leader of January 18, "Educating Our Masters" suggests that no sound foundations currently exist on which to build more effective management skills in the public sector. You conclude, therefore, that there is a need for a new Public Service Staff College. The form in which you present your case ignores the further possible contributions that could be made from existing management schools.

We would argue that considerable efforts have already been made by schools of management to attempt to meet some of the needs of the public sector. In the post-experience field, public sector industry is fully represented in the middle and senior management programmes that are run by the schools. Attempts to relate the schools to the needs of the public sector have been less successful, particularly since the founding of the Civil Service College, which has resulted in a drying up of the initial flow of civil servants that was characteristic of the early days of the Administrative Staff College and the London Business School. Discussions with Civil Service Department have not resulted in any material change in recent years. We have been left with the distinct impression that the Civil Service believes that it can meet its own development needs with little reference to the major investments made by both government and industry in the business schools.

This is a description of practice. As a master of principle, we sympathize strongly with the view that joint development and education of managers in both the public and private sector is of major importance.

Compartmentalized education only seems to divide, to inhibit the development of a greater plurality of roles within the economy and limit communication based on a common language and shared developmental experience. To create yet another specialized institution will only succeed in driving an even greater wedge between those attending courses in established management schools, and those engaged (other than in nationalized industries) in the public sector.

In the country at large, there is a need, not only for new investment, but also to ensure the best use of existing resources. Before advocating the creation of yet another institution, proper attention should be paid to the use of existing assets already created by industry and government, which can provide a basis for wider developments in management and policy making skills.

Yours faithfully,

R. J. BALL, Principal,

London Graduate School of

Business Studies,

Sussex Place,

Regents Park, NW1.

T. KEMPNER, Principal,

The Administrative Staff College,

Henley.

January 18.

Temple Bar

From Mr Alan Mattingly

Sir, I agree with Mr Acworth (January 12). Temple Bar should be left where it is and restored on site.

At the moment it stands at a quiet and attractive location on a popular walking route in North London's Green Belt. If its structure and facade were repaired, and if a certain amount of sensitive landscaping in the immediate vicinity were carried out, there would be no more suitable spot from which to admire this outstanding piece of architecture.

Every day or two, The Times reports other executions throughout the world, and unless all these are their countries' own business, the capital punishment of Gary Gilmore should not be treated so defensively as America's private concern either.

<p



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 19: The Lady Jean-Ran-
kin has succeeded the Hon Mrs
John Mulholland as Lady-in-Wait-
ing to Queen Elizabeth The Queen
Mother.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 19: Princess Alexandra,
President of the Royal Humane
Society, was present at a Luncheon
given by the Committee on the
occasions of the adjudication of
the 1976 Stanhope Gold Medal at
Haberdashers' Hall.

Miss Mona Mitchell was in
attendance.

A memorial service for Sir Henry
d'Avigold-Goldsmith will be held at
the West London Synagogue, Upper
Berkeley Street, London, W1, on
Tuesday, February 8, at noon.

A service of thanksgiving for the
life and work of Sir David Martin,
Executive Secretary of the Royal
Society from 1947 to 1976, will be
held at St Columba's Church of
Scotland, Pont Street, London,
SW1, on Wednesday, February 9,
at noon. Tickets are not required.

Mr Michael Szell wishes to
acknowledge and thank his friends
and well-wishers from all parts of
the world for their messages and
sympathy.

Birthdays today

Lord Ayston, 72; the Hon Sir
Henry Fisher, 59; Mr Royton
Kisch, 58; Mr H. J. Marshall,
71; Lieutenant-General Sir
Reginald Pollard, 74; Sir Theodore
Tasker, 93; Sir Roy Welensky,
70.

Marriage

Wing Commander E. D. Godsell
and Miss E. A. S. Stuart.
The marriage took place recently
at Chippingham, between Wing
Commander David Godsell, of
Malmesbury, and Mrs Anne Stuart,
of Dauntsey, Wiltshire.

Painter-Stainers Company

At a court meeting of the Painter-
Stainer Company held at Painter's
Hall on January 11 Sir Hugh
Casson, President of the Royal
Academy of Arts, was presented
with the freedom and livery of
the company.

The Athenaeum

The Committee of the Athenaeum
has elected to membership, under
Rule II, Lord Bovis of Handsworth,
Vice-Chancellor of Leeds
University.

Hanson Trust

Sir James Hanson and the direc-
tors of Hanson Trust were hosts
at a reception last night at the
Savoy Hotel. Among those pre-
sent were: Mr Anthony Peart,
Sir Richard Peart and other rep-
resentatives of banking, industry
and commerce.

Today's engagements

The Duchess of Gloucester visits
Kids, National Centre for Cued
Speech, Fulham, 11.

The Duke of Kent, in connexion
with British Overseas Trade
Board's North London and
Linen Export Committee, visits
factory of Rotostitch Limited,
The Hyde, Hendon, 9.30.

Exhibition: Felix H. Man, pioneer
of photo-journalism, National
Book League, 7 Albermarle
Street, Piccadilly, 10.45.

British Textile Museum, Leighton
House, 12 Holland Park Road,
11.5.

Latest wills

Animal charities share estate

Mr John Osgood Wall, of Sheff-
field, a retired insurance agent,
left £21,831 net. He left all his
property equally between the
PDSA and the Canis Protection
League.

Other estates include (net before
duty paid; duty not disclosed):
Greenbaum, Anne, of Reading,
£226,527;
Persons, Mr Frederick Journeau,
of Cuckfield, Sussex, newspaper
owner, £321,789;
Perin, Mr Leslie, of Ashford,
Middlesex, £151,563;
Wiener, Mrs Eileen, of Surbiton,
£172,028.

25 years ago

Meat ration reduced
From The Times of Saturday, Jan-
uary 19, 1952.

Major Lloyd-George, Minister of Food, announced in London yes-
terday that from January 1 meat
ration would be reduced by
3d to 1d a week and the bacon
ration increased from 3oz to 4oz.
Speaking at a press conference
Major Lloyd-George said the hope
expressed on behalf of the
ministers that the meat
ration would be maintained at a
level of 1d 5d throughout the winter
was based on four main
assumptions. None of these had
been fulfilled. It was estimated
that meat supplies in the first quarter
of this year would be about 90,000
tons less than envisaged by his
predecessors. Major Lloyd-George
paid tribute to the industry dis-
play of restraint and self-sacrifice
now exporting to Britain more
meat than before the war and
maintaining the same high quality.

Before 1939 the dominion sent a
little more than 100,000 tons of
meat received from either Aus-
tralia or Argentina. The total was
now more than that received from
the other two countries together.

Residents fight to keep tanker terminal away

From Ronald Faux

link it to a tanker terminal at
Braefoot Point on the Firth
between the two towns.

The industry, which is put
in an application for planning
permission with the local authority
today, could not have chosen a
more sensitive area for the tank-
er terminal. In fact, many professional
middle-class folk are cynical about the industry's ability
to build "the world's first pollution-
free, noiseless, smell-free and
pleasant-looking tanker terminal"

They are pressing for a public
inquiry into the scheme, although
both towns are sensitive about
objecting to a scheme that could
possibly make living safe a ship
carrying liquid petroleum gas can
be made, and how foul a petrochemical
flare stack can be.

Other homework they never
expected to be doing when they
moved into their pleasant homes
included sounding out the amount
of noise powerful compressors
might make, making sure a safe

ship carrying liquid petroleum gas
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They

Telfordhas the space
and the people,
for growing
companies.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

England fringe benefit deal cut strikes runs to growing opposition

Ford: Webb

England Cars plan to give 500 manual workers the fringe benefits in the industry in return for strikes is running into opposition on the face of it.

Workers at Jaguar's Radford plant yesterday voted 2,065 to 19 to reject a package which could cost company up to £50m ined payments for sick-leave and redundancy.

Workers at Triumph, Speke, have already voted 1,110 to 110, and shop stewards at Coventry are rejecting rejection.

The senior steward at Oxford assembly plant, will have to be put to a vote of workers called in. The spokesman said: "We have had no secret of the fact that it would ultimately like to move to a single annual bargaining structure for all 100,000 employees.

Workers are also unhappy about another aspect of the offer—that they should lose lay-off pay for three months if they have taken part in industrial disputes during the previous quarter. They insist that this is unwarranted interference in the fundamental right of all employees to withdraw their labour at any time.

The proposed deal has also upset full-time union officials.

During the six-month negotiations between management and senior stewards from all the 36 plants, union officials allege Leyland did not consult any full-time officials.

Rank Baron, chairman of England Cars' national toolroom committee, has said that his committee is against the scheme

because it does nothing to eliminate wage differentials—a sore point with the company's 6,000 toolroom employees.

Shop stewards at Rover, Solihull, have also indicated that they expect their members to vote against it.

Much of the opposition is based on fears that Leyland is attempting to replace individual plant wage bargaining by central bargaining on Ford lines.

One of the concessions sought by Leyland is acceptance of a common start date for all wage negotiations.

Management has said it will continue with individual plant negotiations but has made no secret of the fact that it would ultimately like to move to a single annual bargaining structure for all 100,000 employees.

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Marked slowdown in basic pay increases

d. Blake

ics Correspondent

ace of increases in basic rates continued to fall in the 12 months end of December wage rise by 11.7 per cent, with 12.8 per cent in months ending November.

all, the eighth consecutive month in which wage rates were squeezed, indicates they are rising more slowly than any time during the last few years.

does not provide any information on the way in which themselves are moving.

Average earnings are set by a host of extra factors but figures have not been published since August of industrial action at the Department of Employment.

it is known how these developments are likely to affect the incomes restraint will total growth of earnings in the 6 to 7 per cent.

Government is hoping for a

December itself wage up by just under 10 per cent as a result of ancillary workers in health Service and in public houses. The smaller than in November outstanding of what will happen in engineering industry has been no national strike in this industry for months, and since it is for about a quarter of workers covered, this has had no impact.

the apparent sharp rise in the pace of wage during the second half year is to some extent a statistical illusion for this reason.

But there is no clear sign that the pay policy is being breached to any extent. The Department of Employment estimates that 4.5 million workers have settled within its limits. This figure accounts for about 30 per cent of all employees covered by national settlements, as notified to the department.

The CBI team will also tell Mr Healey that there must be tax concessions in the next Budget favouring management.

ke on American consumer prices

US Economics

Ident

on Jan 19

real seasonally adjusted consumer prices released today show that prices rose by 4.8 per cent, after a 7 per cent gain in November.

The Department of Labour also announced that real spendable earnings advanced by 0.2 per cent last month, after a 0.6 per cent gain in November.

Real spendable earnings last year rose by only 0.1 per cent, after a gain of 3.8 per cent in 1975, but government economists are now optimistic that possibly a 3 to 4 per cent advance this year, due largely to expectations that inflation

will continue at a moderate pace.

Forecasts of a sharp rise in real gross national product in the current quarter are largely based on expectations that advances in real spendable earnings will lead to heavier general consumer spending that will trigger a growth in business inventories. The slight 3 per cent real gap rate seen in the last quarter was largely due to a 5.2700m decline in inventory growth.

the markets moved

CBI sights on pay norm around 3 pc

By Malcolm Brown
Industrial leaders expect to see Mr Healey, the Chancellor, soon to put their preliminary views on the next stage of pay policy. An informal meeting with the TUC economic committee will probably also take place within 10 days.

Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said after yesterday's meeting of the CBI grand council that its delegation would tell the Government that the total pay bill for the nation could not rise by more than 6 per cent in the next phase if the CBI-set target of 5 per cent annual rate of inflation by mid-1978 was to be met.

About 3 per cent of that figure, CBI economists calculate, would be taken up by wages drift. This means a pay norm of around 3 per cent.

Industry wants to see some flexibility in the next round, but the CBI president made it clear yesterday that his advisers were extremely concerned that any mechanism to introduce flexibility should not be open to abuse. They want to avoid such things as phoney productivity deals.

One idea which Lord Watkinson floated last night was that productivity deals might be worked out on Japanese methods or value-added analysis. This is a means of calculating the additional wealth created per employee over a year, and regarded by the Japanese as an extremely accurate productivity measure. The employers would insist on productivity deals being self-financing.

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The Times index : 160.02 +0.92
The FT index : 381.6 +0.5

THE POUND

Rate	Bank buys	Bank sells
11p to 22p	5p to 54p	5p to 54p
11p to 15p	3p to 26p	3p to 26p
5p to 25p	8p to 55p	8p to 55p
12p to 100p	9p to 195p	9p to 195p
7p to 312p	15p to 475p	15p to 475p
5p to 140p	14p to 268p	14p to 268p
12p to 357p	8p to 442p	8p to 442p
2p to 17p	10p to 255p	10p to 255p
5p to 280p	3p to 65p	3p to 65p
3p to 74p	7p to 355p	7p to 355p
5p to 119p	5p to 95p	5p to 95p
2p to 25p	10p to 2.5p	10p to 2.5p
4p to 68p	5p to 528p	5p to 528p
5p to 81p	4p to 163p	4p to 163p
Gold fell \$0.50 an ounce to \$132.65.		
SDR-S was 1.15425 on Wednesday, while SDR-E was 0.671740.		
Commodities : Reuter's index was at 1605.8 (previous 1601.8).		
Reports, pages 20 and 21		

id another firm session, securities were more rose 241 points to The effective devaluation was 42.7 per cent.

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Hopes of large MLR cut dashed

By Our Financial Staff

Bank of England assistance to the discount market on a seven-day basis yesterday quickly scuttled the optimists' view that the Bank might cut its minimum lending rate, now 14 per cent, by more than a half point tomorrow.

But the fact that the level of assistance on a seven-day basis was relatively small and that the bulk of the assistance came on an overnight basis left markets confident that they could still look forward to an MLR cut of a quarter or a half point after tomorrow's Treasury bill tender.

In the view of some optimists the recent downward pressure on Treasury bill yields and short gilt yields pointed towards scope for a cut in MLR of at least one point. But the Bank, despite the considerable pressures building up for a more rapid fall in interest rates, has been consistently making it clear that it wishes the fall to be at a controlled rate.

"They made it plain to us that they wanted a special effort to stop strikes at Leyland so that the company we now own could get down to the business of producing cars."

"We are always being told that one of the worst problems in the motor industry is that full-time officials have lost control of the membership. Yet here we were not even consulted on such far-reaching proposals."

Company sources indicated that copies of the agreement reached with senior shop stewards on December 23 were sent as soon as possible to all full-time union officials and should certainly have been received before Monday.

It is also understood that during the negotiations national officials of the major unions were consulted on three occasions.

Prices reached new peaks yesterday, continuing the rise of recent weeks.

Prices opened sharply lower with profit-taking in the Far East affecting sentiment, but rallying at the morning fixing, cash prices closed £97.50 higher at £5,677.50 a metric ton, with three-month prices rising £80 to £5,625.00.

Dealers attributed the recovery mainly to fresh buying interest on expectations of a further heavy decline in London Metal Exchange stocks this week, and covering to meet increased continental demand.

On the stock market, however, there was little follow-through in tin mining shares after their strong gains in recent weeks.

In this respect, the market will be waiting with keen interest today to see the level of applications for the offer of the new £1.250m long-dated "tap" stock Treasury 13% per cent 1993, which has been offered at a price of 295 per cent to yield 14.38 per cent to redemption.

The aim of the new stock is to try to peg yields at the longer end of the market after the enormous demand for gilts over recent weeks.

Market speculation yesterday was that in the region of £500m of stock may be applied for today. A significant part of this is expected to be put up by overseas buyers.

Overseas interest in the new "tap" stock is also thought to have been one of the reasons for yesterday's very heavy demand for sterling with consequent pressure for a rapid drop in interest rates which also goes against the authorities' desire.

On the stock market gilts were relatively subdued, but equities made a flying start after Mr Healey's overnight

change rate rising too far or too fast.

Some estimates put Bank of England purchases around \$10bn to \$150m. Sterling rose 242 points to close at \$1.71845.

Its effective devaluation against other major currencies was 42.7 per cent, down 0.2 per cent on the day.

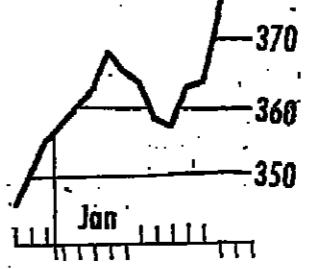
The authorities have clearly decided during the past week's strong demand for sterling to try to choke off its rise in value, partly perhaps because anything that goes up too quickly could come down if confidence were to reverse and partly to rebuild reserves.

However, holding down the pound's rate is clearly one of the factors making it worth while for foreigners to move money heavily into London, with consequent pressure for a rapid drop in interest rates which also goes against the authorities' desire.

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US row over £430m loan guarantees to Burmah

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Jan 19

Just the day before leaving office Mr Elliott Richardson, the United States Secretary of Commerce today approved the granting of about \$730m (£430m) of American government loan guarantees for special tankers that are being built for the Burmah Oil Co.

The liquefied natural gas tankers are being constructed by the General Dynamics Corporation. The application for guarantees aroused a big controversy here and any further delay on the part of the Government may well have endangered international shipping contracts for Burmah Oil worth thousands of millions of dollars.

Burmah Oil, according to a statement made recently by Mr Richardson, had to be certain of the granting of the loan guarantees by January 31 to ensure that it could hold on to its valuable long-term contracts to transport liquefied natural gas from Indonesia to Japan.

Approval of these guarantees was seen in government circles here as being of prime importance for Burmah's long-term financial health, as well as being crucial for General Dynamics.

Mr Richardson determined to make a final decision on this matter before leaving office. He placed immense pressure on the Federal Maritime Administration, the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission to conclude their investigations into the legitimacy of the loan guarantee application.

Randsel has been badly hurt by its costly involvement with Schlesinger. Additionally, because of its participation rights in Anglo shares for every Randsel. When the shares of both companies were suspended on Tuesday last, Randsel's shares racing ahead, Anglo's quote was standing at 22p in London and Randsel's at 46p.

But before the takeover can proceed it is proposed that Randsel should make a rights issue to raise about £80m (about £53m) to enable it to cover redemption of preference shares, repay short-term borrowings from Anglo and provide for envisaged commitments.

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The investigating agencies have apparently concluded now that the ships are fully owned by General Dynamics, that there should be no further delay in approving the loan guarantees.

It remains to be seen whether these agencies and by Mr Richardson fully satisfy the Congress.

It seems doubtful that action taken by either the Congress or the Carter Administration could produce further delays in the release of the loan guarantees to General Dynamics by the Government. Some Congressmen, however, have been following this matter closely and may still try to intervene.

Supermarket groups win planning approvals

By Patricia Tisdall
An easing in local and central government attitudes to planning proposals for large stores is reported by the main retail groups. This could result in an acceleration of the construction of a large number of such stores during the next year to 18 months.

All the large supermarket groups are anxious to increase the size of their stores because of the lower operating costs they offer, but have been held back because of difficulties and delays in obtaining planning approval.

F.W. Woolworth was granted local authority approval to build a hypermarket at Bulwell near Nottingham with 55,000 sq ft of selling space earlier this month.

But the majority of large scale retail projects still have to go to the Department of the Environment through the appeal and public enquiry procedure.

The DoE has 14 hypermarket and superstore appeals against local authority refusals on its books, of which seven have been to inquiry stage and decisions are imminent.

The largest of these is a proposal by Hypermarket Holdings, the Wheatsheaf Distribution and Trading subsidiary, which wants to build a 120,000 sq ft Carrefour hypermarket at Colchester. Mr John Fairclough, managing director (development) of Hypermarket Holdings, hopes for a decision shortly.

Wheatsheaf, which has three Carrefour hypermarkets, was granted approval for a fourth outside Bristol in November. It will cost around £5m to build, and is expected to be open in Spring 1978.

Construction is well advanced for a fifth Carrefour due to open in May at Birmingham although this, with around 70,000 sq ft of selling area, will not be as big as the Bristol store which will have 90,000 sq ft.

Also interested in opening as many new superstores as planning approvals permit, is Asda, the Associated Dairies retail subsidiary, which has about 60 large stores.

According to Mr Don Ridge, Asda's director of development, a further six stores with a minimum of 60,000 sq ft of gross sales areas are due to be opened in 1977 and there are a further 10 firm applications in the planning pipeline.

The Department of the Environment has two appeals from Asda against local authority refusals on its books. One of these is a 78,000 sq ft development at Aston Villa, the other a 60,000 sq ft store at Brumstone, near Leicester.

Other store groups which have appeals in the planning system are the Co-op and Sainsbury. The Co-op has two appeals outstanding, one for a very large 115,000 sq ft store at Havant, in Hampshire. Sainsbury has three.

The store groups attribute the change in planning attitudes to a number of factors. One of these is a draft directive sent to local authorities and other interested bodies last July recommending more sympathetic consideration for large store development proposals. The directive attracted a number of comments from store groups and others and discussions are in progress about what its final form should be.

A more immediate factor has been the pressure on local authorities to make economical use of available sites. Combined with the sharp drop in building proposals from other types of developer, including local authorities themselves, this has helped the store groups' case.

In addition there are strong and growing arguments in favour of large stores generally, on the grounds that they can offer lower food prices to consumers.

In brief

Nationwide chief predicts easier mortgages

Mortgages should become easier to obtain later in the year, Mr Leonard Williams, chief general manager of the Nationwide Building Society, said yesterday. In the short term, however, the prospects are less encouraging.

Building society receipts had stabilized after the exceptional level of withdrawals early in December.

Much, however, depended upon the trend of interest rates.

If minimum lending rate fell to around 12 to 13 per cent the societies could expect to attract the £200m a month in net receipts which would enable them to lend at the rate of £500m a month.

Second increase by Alcan UK

Alcan UK yesterday announced a further increase in the price of aluminium—the second this month—which has boosted primary ingot by £20 per tonne to £630. The rise, which takes effect today, follows a January 1 increase of £31 per tonne and means that Alcan's United Kingdom price has risen by almost 50 per cent in the last 12 months.

Mr Dennis Pinn, managing director of Alcan Aluminium (UK) said that the new increase was a direct reflection of cost movements and inflation had been a major factor. The company is now also beginning to feel the full effects of last year's substantial rise in the cost of imported alumina.

The increase comes at a time when world demand for aluminium is rising and stocks

Decision soon on reference of timber prices to Commission

By Derek Harris and Edward Townsend

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Mr Hattersley.

return on capital increased from 19.8 per cent to 34 per cent in the three years up to the boom year of 1973-74. Last year, returns fell back to an average 20 per cent, with a consequential effect on profit margins.

End-users of softwood in Britain have become concerned by rising prices, and have given warning that timber products may soon become less competitive.

The timber trade's average

throughout 1976 imported timber prices rose by up to 40 per cent, although a major cause was the falling value of sterling. In October, some Russian suppliers invoked a controversial clause in their contracts with United Kingdom importers following the pound's fall below \$1.70 and imposed increases of 17 to 23 per cent.

The British timber trade ended 1976 with estimated stocks of two million cubic metres, which was not considered excessive against an apparent consumption figure for the year of about 7.2 million cubic metres. Demand for timber this year will probably fall by up to 10 per cent, largely reflecting the depressed building trade.

Timber trade activity is now low, as importers await the year's first softwood offer from Exporties, the Soviet trading organization which sets the trend. The Russians will be keen to hold on to their British market share, about 1.5 million cubic metres, particularly in a falling market and will settle at current or even reduced rates. However, prices among Britain's merchants are likely to remain high.

The Chemical Industries Association claimed yesterday that there were now signs that the reservoir of good will by senior staff had fallen to "danger level". Positive, substantial and immediate Government action was needed on higher tax rates if morale and motivation were to be replenished.

Mr Martin Trowbridge, the director-general of the CIA, in a letter to chief executives of the organization's members said that this was a general problem in British industry but finding a solution was of particular importance to the chemical industry because of its special dependence on creative people who were the key to success.

He noted that the efforts of senior managers had enabled manufacturers to weather the last two years in relatively good heart; to maintain employment; increase foreign earnings—the industry's trade surplus last year was £1,049m—and to continue with the counter-cyclical investment programme despite an economic environment which did not encourage wide confidence.

The CIA is now pressing Mr Healey to ease the tax burden on senior managers in his next Budget and is also seeking the support of Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

The unions have already resisted government pressure to abolish or at least reduce the automatic increases linked to the cost of living, which it considers to be the major cause of inflation and made it clear they will fight any attempt to impose it with all the weapons at their disposal.

As the talks continue an important deadline is looming—February 1, when the quarterly announcement of the cost of living increase is made. This time it is expected to be about 10 per cent, meaning a 6 to 7 per cent increase in labour costs.

The economic newspaper Sole24 Ore said today that if a solution was not found quickly the fresh increase, combined with the progressive reduction of the tax on foreign currency purchases, could set off a further crisis for the lire.

Further evidence of the distorting effect of the pay code and what it described as "Britain's near-confiscatory marginal tax rates", will be provided

soon.

The association also pointed out that there were other difficulties when staff were paid in non-sterling currencies. According to the organization, a French chemicals salesman moved to the United Kingdom office of his company and was paid £2,000 a year more than his British chief.

The organization has asked companies to submit examples of senior staff refusing to take up promotion offers in the United Kingdom to support its case. The evidence is so far accumulated has highlighted the difficulties.

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In the one instance where the builders refused to rectify defects, I went through the appropriate NHBC procedure and after filling in forms in triplicate, paying a deposit, writing eight letters to them, and receiving their investigating surveyor, I received their confirmation on all material matters and, in particular, on the presence of a defect which they said was not only dangerous, but also failed to comply with their building requirements.

When the builders persisted in their attitude, even denying

the existence of the defect, the NHBC told me that their procedure then required the case to go to arbitration and that I should complete more forms in triplicate. I could then see months of more paperwork ahead—my dealings with the NHBC had already spread over nine months—and I could no longer tolerate the dangerous situation in my home. It was as much due to good fortune as to our vigilance that no child was injured (it one had been) and it might well have been fatal and I was obliged to spend hundreds of pounds doing that which both I and the NHBC considered should have done.

It seems that the report of an NHBC inspector carries no weight with an obdurate builder.

Yours faithfully,
M.L.GEE,
6 Cenacle Close,
London, NW3.
January 13.

Yet these palaces generally passenger passengers—by taking the impulse cannot be made the business could as easily done by telephone Huddersfield, or an street travel agency, the same applies to the major world cities have visited.

If, as I infer from wages and the fact that the code still flies, this is done to expense chara airlines, it is hardly su that air travel is expensive.

Yours faithfully,
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Looking through FASB8 at Rank

There are some obscure areas in Rank's preliminary figures, notably the impact of United States accounting standard SB 8 on Xerox's contribution, but that aside what does not seem clear is that the cost of borrowed funds has risen above the 4.9 per cent jump in tax profits to £75.6m is that troublesome non-Xerox activities are at least coming of the cold.

Rank has departed from its normal practice of letting the tax charge on non-Xerox assets be at least restricted by the need to hold Treasury bills as security for borrowing from the Bank of England.

But Union did at least read the rules fairly accurately and took what action it could to ease the difficulties. It moved out of gifts and pruned back the size and life of its book ahead of the first-cut of MLR increases, cut back further ahead of the second and then reversed the process when rates peaked.

By year-end, it held £45m of gifts but built assets back up to £62.9m (against £78.6m a year before) and VAT cut was limited to 74 days.

The New Year has, of course, started much as it did in 1976 and discount house share prices have recently been outperforming the market in recognition.

The houses can now generally be expected to follow Union with maximum dividend increases.

But while the outlook for this year must be better than last it would be wrong to expect too much more of share price rises. A 340p Union yields 8% per cent.

Final: 1976 (1975)

Capitalisation £25.5m

Net profits £1.87m (£3.07m)

Dividend gross 23.1p (26.4p)

Allied Retailers
Hire purchase buoyancy

Allied Retailers has forecast profits of £4m for the year to mid-March, ahead of the transfer to unrealised gross profit reserve on its hire purchase business, which this year is expected to top the £600,000 of last time, but not by all that much.

So the message is that last year's £3.3m pre-tax is likely to be repeated, with the real impetus coming in the second half. In fact Allied's board says that trading in the third quarter was "very satisfactory", and that margins are now improving.

Allied's customers appear to be flying in the face of the national experience, cashing back their cash spending and borrowing on hire purchases (the transfer to the profit reserve rose from £77,000 to £400,000) in the first half of the year, when average wages were rising in real terms.

Final: 1975/76 (1974/75)

Capitalisation £28.7m

Net profits £75.6m (£50.7m)

Dividend gross 10.95p (9.9p)

on Discount

Weathering storm

Unit houses cannot take in any unrealized capital on their portfolios so the benefit of the swing in interest rates November has still to through this year. Even Discount managed to well enough with a six-rise in Minimum Lending since the end of its split-76 first quarter, broadly even in the last nine months.

Conditions could hardly have been worse. Capital losses were payable because of the of the MLR increases; about the summer when was anxious not to hold my Treasury bills it found commercial buying interest had dried up and was to buy no less than

£4,500m; and since interest rates have started to turn in its favour it has had to put up with running losses on its book because the cost of borrowed funds has risen above the 4.9 per cent jump in tax profits to £75.6m is that

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Capitalisation £28.7m

Net profits £75.6m (£50.7m)

Dividend gross 10.95p (9.9p)

Allied Retailers
Hire purchase buoyancy

Allied Retailers has forecast profits of £4m for the year to mid-March, ahead of the transfer to unrealised gross profit reserve on its hire purchase business, which this year is expected to top the £600,000 of last time, but not by all that much.

So the message is that last year's £3.3m pre-tax is likely to be repeated, with the real impetus coming in the second half. In fact Allied's board says that trading in the third quarter was "very satisfactory", and that margins are now improving.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Institutions pile in, but small investors take profits

The Chancellor's overnight hint of tax incentives for industry gave the equity market its busiest day for almost a year and also brought a contrasting reaction from the "professionals" and the investing public.

For their part, the big guns interpreted Mr Healey's re-

Oil men feel the as-yet unnamed North Sea Block 211/11, just west of the Magnus Field, is one of the most promising of the smaller blocks. There has been a steady build-up of funds there and Shell has an interest in an area which straddles the two areas. The shares of banking and insurance group Minster Assets, which had 5 per cent, could do well soon as more news comes out. Arco is the operator. Minster stand at around 40p.

marks to mean the possible ending, or at least easing, of dividend restraint and there was some sizable buying before lunch. But the smaller investor seemed less impressed and was a consistent, if modest, seller for the whole session.

For this reason most prices were not able to hold on to their best levels and the FT Index, 5.7 up at 11 am, lost ground steadily thereafter and, by the close, stood just 0.5 ahead at 331.6. Indications that MLI will be cut this week were another incentive, but even here there was some disagreement.

Some felt it would be a

nominal quarter per cent reduction while others were sure it would be twice that, or even more. With the lists opening today for the new £1,250m long "tap", gilts were subdued by recent standards.

In two-way business prices eased an 1/8 point at one stage in the long-dated sector, but recovered, to close with little net change on the day. Short-dated stocks followed a similar course.

There was some concern that profit-taking might develop during the session, following the recent good rise in prices. In fact, some profit-taking was seen, but it proved to be fairly modest. In addition, the market was helped by the signals from the Bank of England which were interpreted as indicating the authorities' willingness to permit a small fall in the Minimum Lending Rate on Friday.

The prospect of an easier policy on dividends was a catalyst for some of the leading industrial shares, notably Uni- lever, up 8p to 442p, Glaxo 8p to 430p, Fisons 7p to 312p and Alginate up 11p to 223p.

Some chemical shares were spurred by bullish figures from Allied Colloids, up 11p to 153p, with Hickson & Welch still

forging ahead after a recent statement and closing another 12p to the good at 357p. Standard stocks followed a similar course.

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In electronics, the feature was figures from Rank. The shares edged forward a few pence, ahead of the statement and after consolidated to close 8p higher at 165p. Continuing to benefit from recent figures, Thorn gained 6p to 226p, Decca added 10p to 265p, while both Trident TV 35p and Anglo TV 108p were firm after state-

ments. Elsewhere in business, the property pitch had Sunley up 8p to 118p on more talk. Stock Conversion 4p to the good

scrip. ↑ On enlarged capital.

While Yorkshire Chemicals were also a good market at 120p.

In breweries, Allied refused to respond again to its big investment plans, but Vaux was a strong market again, gaining 10p to 255p, a rise of 20p in just two days.

In subdued stores, the best was Marks & Spencer, 3p higher at 161p, but mail order group Freemans soared 9p to 140p on late speculative demand.

In the oil sector, BP was hit by light selling to end 6p lower at 814p. Burm Burnham gained 4p to 56p, Shell 2p to 482p and Lasme 2p to 292p, after 295p.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord (and par value)	Div	Year ago	Pay	Year's total	Prev year
Allied Colloids Int	1.55	—	—	1.4	—	1.37
Anglia Retailers (1975) Int	1.8	—	—	1.6	—	4.82
Anglia Retailers (1975) Fin	4.11	4.1	—	7.47	6.79	—
Peter Black (25p) Int	1.2	—	2.0	2.5	—	5.71
Continuous Stationery Int	0.7	0.7	7.4	—	—	2.11
Dixons Photo (16p) Int	0.93	0.71*	28.2	—	—	1.91
Glass Glover (5p) Fin	0.32	0.47*	—	0.74	0.67	—
Group Investors (25p)	0.65	0.57	4.3	—	1.53	—
Group Investors (25p) Int	3.45	3.12	4.4	—	10.99	—
I Dris Hydraulics	3	0.45	23	—	1.48	—
A. Kershaw (5p) Fin	10.15	8.87	12.4	14.09	12.81	—
LDN Electrical (25p) Int	1.25	1.1	28.2	—	—	2.5
Magnat & Stina (25p) Int	3	—	1/4	—	—	4
Peterborough Mts (20p)	0.88	0.8	2.4	—	—	2.01
Sands Organisation (25p)	4.92	4.2	12.4	7.12	6.47	—
Scotsman (25p) Int	1.1	1.2	24.3	1.95	1.8	—
Union Discourse (51) Fin	11.37	10.16	—	10.87	10.15	—
US & Gen Trust (25p)	—	2.89	10.3	4.94	4.28	—
Websters Pubs (5p) Fin	0.93	0.88	29.3	1.3	0.65	—
Woodrow Wyatt (5p) Int	NIL	1.13	—	—	1.13	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in business, the property pitch had Sunley up 8p to 118p on more talk. Adjusted for scrip. ↑ On enlarged capital.

Hanson poised for major U.S. foray

On present prospects the directors reckon that profits for the second half of the year will be in excess of those for the first six months, implying something over £4m pre-tax, against £2.7m last time.

The directors, however, stress that "the indicated progress for the current year must be regarded as exceptional".

Allied Colloids, which forecast that dividends would be trebled to a total of 7p a share gross in the current year when it made its final rights issue last June, is paying an interim dividend for the first time ever, of 2.38p a share gross.

In consequence of the rights issue and a strong cash flow, the group's liquidity continues to be high, and the directors have authorized a large capital investment programme to be financed out of internal resources.

With almost 70 per cent of turnover relating to overseas sales, and the Americas and Europe accounting for the greater part of that, profits are thus considerably understated.

Reorganization plan by Courts (Furnishers)

The directors of Courts (Furnishers) propose to reorganize the structure of the group "to facilitate certain administrative improvements."

The parent company Courts (Furnishers)—which at present trades on its own account as well as holding investments in subsidiaries—is to transfer its trading operations to wholly-owned subsidiaries and then act as a holding company.

The necessary proposals will be put forward at an EGM on February 11. If the resolution is passed, all trading assets and liabilities of Courts (Furnishers) in the UK will be transferred to an existing wholly-owned subsidiary named Courts Furnishers (UK).

Last night the board intends to transfer the whole of the group's overseas interests to a wholly-owned UK subsidiary named Courts Furnishers (Overseas).

Before exceptional items, the rise in profits is almost 90 per cent to £5.72m, with the main impetus after sale of the UK retail side where profits are up from £2.8m to £4.99m. In addition, there has been

The last named was first mentioned here last week as a beneficiary of possible good news of Ninian Field production.

In the building sector, the Chancellor's remarks on exporting companies was good for rises in Taylor Woodrow 14p to 268p, and Costain 5p to 145p and both Middle East contracts. Elsewhere on the pitch, there were solid gains from Laing 4p to 79p, Johnson-Richards Tiles, AP Cement 5p to 176p, Tarmac 3p to 145p and Cawdor 7p to 111p.

In breweries, Allied refused to respond again to its big investment plans, but Vaux was a strong market again, gaining 10p to 255p, a rise of 20p in just two days.

In subdued stores, the best was Marks & Spencer, 3p higher at 161p, but mail order group Freemans soared 9p to 140p on late speculative demand.

In the oil sector, BP was hit by light selling to end 6p lower at 814p. Burm Burnham gained 4p to 56p, Shell 2p to 482p and Lasme 2p to 292p, after 295p.

After the news of an impending bid, Travis & Arnold lost another 4p to 103p, and a cautious statement from Magnet Southers left the shares unchanged at 130p. A timber industry spokesman said he did not think it likely timber prices would be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

In foods, the strongest spots were to be found in Rowntree 3p to 218p, Sainsbury 4p to 154p and Paterson Zochonis 5p to 160. Lyons reacted from 9p start to close just a point better at 59p.

In the middle of the toy fair season both Lesney 65p and Airfix 46p were firm, while over in papers the pick was De La Rue which rose 15p to 265p on the approach of quarterly figures. FMC reported from the previous day's gain, to close 4p lower at 68p while Scottish Assam Tea rose 70p to 95p on agreed bid terms.

In financials, the prospect of lower interest rates helped

at 178p and MEPC closed 3p firmer at 62p.

Equity turnover on January 18 was £95.9m (18,741 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BA1 Ind., Bathurst, Shell, Burmah, Beecham, Unilever, Trust Houses Forte, Courtaulds, Marks & Spencer, EMI, BA1 Ind., Allied Colloids, Bowater, Cavendish, Freemans, Magnat Southers and P & O.

September quarter to R in the last quarter.

In the Anglovaal camp working profits at Hart

fontein increased from R1.481 kilogrammes in the December quarter after the total number of tons milled increased by 1,000 tons to 248,000 tons

and the yield remained static at 18.5 grams per ton.

Costs were sharply controlled and working profits from gold increased from R13.95m to R14.73m. Randfontein has a major potential from uranium and work on the new gold and uranium recovery plant is reported to be on schedule. The company has also reported the purchases of long term uranium contracts have agreed to put up R103.8m in interest free loans to fund the R145m expansion programme. (Last month there were reports that the customer financing deal had fallen through.)

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In line with forecast dividend policy the interim dividend goes up from 0.854p a share (gross) to 1.451p. A similar final dividend is expected (that is, 1.451p) to give a full year total of 2.233p against 2.029p.

Business appointments

New deputy chairman for House of Fraser

Mr Robert Midgley is to be joined deputy chairman of House of Fraser from February 1.

Mr C. B. Justice has been made director of BSG International. Mr Alan Green, director of Booker, Selmon Retail, has been appointed chief executive and also joins the board of its United Kingdom food distribution division.

Mr S. J. B. Skyrme has been made a part-time member of the board of the National Bus Company on his retirement as chief executive and full-time member of the board.

Mr Dominic Cadbury has been appointed international marketing director of Cadbury Schweppes and Mr Peter Gregory becomes international technical director. Mr Terry Organ takes over as regional managing director with responsibility for control and co-ordination of operations of the British, Canadian and Irish companies. Andrew, manager of British and Irish brands, becomes managing director of Cadbury Limited (United Kingdom confectionery division), replacing Mr Organ. Mr Harry Laverty becomes managing director of Cadbury's United Kingdom and foods division in succession to Mr Cadbury. All appointments take effect from February 17.

Mr M. Crichton and Mr E. W. Phillips have joined the board of Luton Woolwich Equitable Building Society.

Mr George L. Schueppert has been appointed managing director of Continental Illinois Limited. He succeeds Mr John E. Porta, who is to head the newly created financial services department of general banking services of Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust, Chicago. Mr Porta remains a director of Continental Illinois.

Mr Charles Cooper succeeds Mr Eric Bulley as chairman of Charles Clifford Industries. Mr Bulley is leaving from the board, while Mr Douglas Adams, Mr Wilt Stanton, Mr Vernon Smith, a director of Charles Clifford Industries, has been appointed managing director of Charles Clifford.

Mr James McCracken has been named a director of Advance Tapes (UK).

Dr David Atterton has been appointed chairman of the industrial strategy sector working party for iron and steel of the National Economic Development Office.

Mr D. Guyer and Mr S. J. Hill have been made directors of Goldsmiths (Insurance Brokers and Goldsmiths, Australia Underwriting Managers) respectively.

Mr R. C. Thompson has been managing director of Carrington Vivell from April 1.

Mr J. N. McCance has joined the board of General Funds Investment Trust.

Mr S. H. Lindemann has been appointed to the board of Castlemere Properties (Northern) and Castlemere Properties (Manchester).

Mr Robert Lambert, an assistant manager of Barclays Bank International's head office, has been appointed a director, inclusive vice-president of Barclays Bank International.

Mr Michael Aldrich has joined the board of Rediffusion Com. Mr Brian Ashby, general manager, personal finance, has been made director of Lloyds Bank International from February 1.

Since the resignation of Mr D. E. Broadbent and Mr J. Carroll have become director of Gold Mines of Kafue (African) Ltd.

Mr Fredrik C. Schmid, second vice-president of the First Com of Chicago is to become general manager of the bank's London branch.

David Schafer has succeeded Mr R. F. M

NANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

aimler-
nz in top
ar for
ars ahead

a time when most Euro-
motor manufacturers are
in a period of flatter
Daimler-Benz AG,
Germany's leading motor
paints a rosy picture
of its future.

sing in Zurich, Professor
in Zahl, chief executive,
that demand for Mar-
passenger cars would
rise at an above-
the rate in the years ahead.
ited that Daimler's
duction of 370,000 units
was up 86,000 on 1971.
t time German car
upped by about 155,000

er expects profits for
will be "good" and
exceed the DM310m of
turnover in Germany and
in 1976 rose by about
cent to a new record
300m from DM210,000.

ish Borneo
rejecting
is Gold offer

board of British Borneo
um has had a change of
nd decided it cannot now
e shareholdings to
a £6 million takeover bid.

solidated Gold Fields
December, the British
board had agreed terms
p. cash. It gives as its
for the about-face, the
Stock Market since
it was announced on
ber 12.

sh Borneo is an invest-
olding and dealing com-
and its two major investors
are in Shell and BP. The
these holdings have in-
substantially during the
weeks. Consolidated
ed yesterday that it had
ition of raising its offer
it is proceeding with
at the request of the
Panel. Documents are
to be posted to stock-
on January 21.

Test oil credit
nal Westminster Bank
ing available an addi-
£15m under a line of
opened to nine oil com-
in January last year. The
which is backed by the
Creditor. Guarantees
will now provide a
total loan of £25m and
a used to buy capital
and services in the
Kingdom in connection
e continued development
One of the Stafford
The oil companies
a number of inter-
l concerns based in Nor-

ch down
ent the pre-tax profits of
developer and building
Crouch Group by 10
to £273,000 in the six
to September 30 after
moved from £5.06m to
July profits will be down
full year to March 31
ough after tax the drop
be small. In 1975/76
its were £258,000. The
dividend is 1.37p gross
£. NOTE: OFFER
Kingdom of Norway has
the Securities and
Commission in the
States \$100m in general
notes due 1982 to be
underwritten led by
will use the proceeds
cover the anticipated
balance of payments
account in 1977. No
been given for sale.

AK CREDIT
he Bank Luxembourg
is preparing a DM400m
fit for the Kingdom of
redit is being planned
with a planned
over the next few months
under lead manager
Cie Financiere de la
Bank AG, consists
of Luxembourg credit
and a Danish bank.

BANK OF CANADA
oyal Bank of Canada's
\$ per cent Eurobond
and its Can \$40m of 9
debt due 1992 were
led at par. The lead
was Royal Bank.

ank Base
Rates

ays Bank 14%
ld Credit 14%
London Secs 14%
ure & Co. *14%
s Bank 14%
nd Bank 14%
estminster 14%
nster Acc's 14%
ey Trust 16%
ums & Glyn's 14%
s deposits on sum of
00 and under 11%
25,000, 11% over
00, 11%.

Commodities

commodities. Cash wire bars advanced
by £15.00. Persistent selling pressure
was thought to represent
increasing interest in
Cash wire bars, £205.00 to a metric
tonne, market value 196.50.
Cash wire bars, £151.50. Three
months, £151.50. Three months,
£212.50. Cash wire bars, £151.50.
Cash wire bars, £151.50. Three
months, £205.00. Three months,
£212.50. Settlement, £210.50.
Sales, 400 tons.

Silver made slight advances—
Silver, £15.00. Persistent selling pres-
sure was thought to represent
increasing interest in
Silver, £15.00. Three months,
£15.00. Three months, £15.00.
Silver, £15.00. Three months,
£15.00. Three months, £15.00.
Silver, £15.00. Three months,
£15.00. Three months, £15.00.

Gold, £15.00. Three months, £15.00.
Gold, £15.00. Three months, £15.00.

Lead, £15.00. Three months, £15.00.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Early gains not held

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 17. Dealings End, Jan 28. § Contango Day, Jan 31. Settlement Day, Feb 8
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

ELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

Report January 19 1977

The lonely independence of the Attorney General

Union of Post Office and others v Lord Justice Lawton & Lord Justice Ormrod.

Mr Justice Lawton was taken by the Attorney General, and only one was taken by the postal workers' of France. In 1973 a post-nuclear testing became so important that the Attorney General at that time, even Attorney General with Lord Justice Lawton, Court of Appeal that the ever had an opportunity to take an interest in the workers' action.

Lord Justice Lawton QC, the General, continued his case on appeal to the court of Appeal to hear on January 15 (The Times, 17) from the refusal of ice Stocker the previous grant him an injunction to stop the Union of Workers from soliciting endorsement to procure on wilfully to obtain a postal packet in the transmission between and Wales and the of South Africa. The mail was sent at 10.30 am on 18, and expressed the Attorney General end to assist the court of his consent to 14 to refuse an action brought against him in the name of the applicant's request for injunction was ordered by Post Office Engineers on ex parte application Saturday and leave was given to the Attorney General to be a defendant in the case. The statement of claim asked to ask for a that the Attorney General refusing his consent to a relator action had acted in his discretion.

Mr Mark Saville, QC, for the Union of Workers and with Veedor for the Post Office Engineers Union, the General, Mr Samuel Smith with Mr Harry Woolf in behalf of the Attorney General, development on the constitutionality of the Attorney General exercising his special in relation to actions brought against him in his discretion.

Mr Justice Lawton said that he was told that the Attorney General had a sufficient basis for his decision to act in a totally irresponsible way the Prime Minister of the day could relieve him of his office ex post facto. So the Attorney did have, as it were, the loneliness of that distance running through his decision.

In that situation the court said "We look at this in the same way as we look at our power to control the decisions of ministers acting within their collective responsibility". The court would be applying any of the principles of the Attorney in performing his important constitutional functions.

The Master of the Rolls: He has shown a singular strength of mind if any of his colleagues say: "We don't like this at all."

The Attorney: Yes indeed; and it would be most difficult to conceive of any other way of doing what he did following the remnant of the day. It is for the whole House.

There were many when a three-line whip withdrawn, and where to feel strongly that it did not obey a three-line whip had done.

He himself had done justice Lawton: My recollection is that the Attorney General in the exercise of his powers of the court of Appeal might have somehow become obsolescent so as to enable the courts to disregard the considerations to which he had referred.

The Master of the Rolls: One might say that the attorney general action has been eroded because an action for a declaration can be brought without the Attorney's consent.

The Attorney: I am afraid that if that was the case in 1973, it would be more difficult to bring an action for a declaration of the law Commission.

The Master of the Rolls: He asked later whether the present case was the first in which the Attorney General had refused his consent to a relator action and the individual applicant had come to the court.

The Attorney: I unhesitatingly agree and in so far as any comment is directed to the court on that basis it is totally unfounded. It is not for the court to look at what is happening and act independently of the Administration.

The Master of the Rolls: But the inaction of your predecessor may have led people to think this was something they could do. It may mislead the men when it is known that under the previous Administration in 1973 nothing was done to help them who seek what could anything be done now.

The Attorney: I said that that was a factor which he might consider within the ambit of public interest. It worked in both directions.

The Master of the Rolls: The law does not stand still.

The Attorney: The law develops but, in order to prevent conflict, the courts should not cause the law to be changed on the basis of a particular case or facts when the law is under review.

The Attorney: So far as he knew it was the first time, probably because it had always been recognized that it could not be done. His predecessor, Sir

Peter Rawlinson, QC had certainly applied the principle involved in the public interest in deciding whether to allow someone who had plainly committed a crime not to be prosecuted.

The Master of the Rolls: It has been suggested that your predecessor did not take proceedings even in respect of the Post Office?

The Attorney: That is true.

The Master of the Rolls: Was there any application made to him?

The Attorney: Yes, and it was prepared to assume that no application had been made. There had been two occasions in recent years, once in 1971 when Post Office workers withdrew their labour for the previous day's hearing, namely, the way in which the court had in recent years exercised a greater control over the powers of the executive than they did in 1971.

The Master of the Rolls: Start with Peaford [1968] AC 957, the television licence case [Congreve v Home Office [1976] QB 629, and Tameside [The Times, October 22, 1976] [1976] 3 WLR 1126].

The Attorney: And the latest, Laker v Department of Trade [The Times, December 16, 1976], which I have reason to remember.

Those, the Attorney said, were cases where ministers had purported to exercise certain powers of Cabinet and government control.

Apart from that, the situation was on all fours with the present case. The postal workers were instructed by their unions that they should demonstrate against the proposed budget cuts. The unions both in this country and abroad, in protest, whether justifiably was not for him to say, proper to enable them to make up his mind. Some years ago there had been a case of a person with diplomatic status accused of shoplifting and the question arose whether he ought to be prosecuted if the reasons for his Attorney General's decision were to be disclosed the whole damage which his decision sought to avoid might be done.

Within that sphere, though not one I prosecute anyone,

The Attorney: I am afraid to do so, I mean evidence to the court. Your Lordships asked the question and I am glad you have asked it. It may be thought to be pertinent in the present context.

So far as 1973 was concerned, he continued, there were two distinctions from the present: (1) that no application was made to the Attorney General for his consent though it was fully within the knowledge of everyone that it was happening. There was no service of notice and the Minister of State for the Affairs referred to in Parliament, so no one should assume that the Attorney General had a sufficient interest.

Lord Justice Ormrod: If the plaintiff had a sufficient special interest he could apply for a declaration.

The Attorney: The plaintiff could not bring an action based on a criminal offence without my consent.

The Master of the Rolls: Did they obey the orders?

The Attorney: So far as I know, yes.

The Master of the Rolls: Any way, no one prosecuted anyone.

The Attorney: I am afraid to do so, I mean evidence to the court. Your Lordships asked the question and I am glad you have asked it. It may be thought to be pertinent in the present context.

So far as 1973 was concerned, he continued, there were two distinctions from the present: (1) that no application was made to the Attorney General for his consent though it was fully within the knowledge of everyone that it was happening. There was no service of notice and the Minister of State for the Affairs referred to in Parliament, so no one should assume that the Attorney General had a sufficient interest.

Lord Justice Ormrod: If the plaintiff had a sufficient special interest he could apply for a declaration.

The Attorney: The plaintiff could not bring an action based on a criminal offence without my consent.

The Master of the Rolls: Yet the plaintiff could start a private prosecution without my consent.

The Attorney: It would be a change of the law if the action was brought without my consent.

Lord Justice Ormrod: If the plaintiff had a sufficient special interest he could apply for a declaration.

The Attorney: Here we are dealing with members of the public generally. The plaintiff had a special interest. I was asked to give my consent on the basis that Mr Gouriet had no special rights.

Lord Justice Ormrod: The plaintiff had been asked to fit up an Industrial Revenue form like a million others.

The Attorney: A million others who had a special interest. All the argument that was conducted on behalf of the plaintiff was in support of trade unionists in South Africa being controlled by the South African Government in a way that cut down trade union influence.

So the present was not necessarily a dispute that was the case in 1973.

Lord Justice Ormrod: Before you leave the 1973 matter you were kind enough yesterday to accept that there is no political bias in this court. But I have seen the question of whether the plaintiff had an interest in this case and did not take an interest in the 1973 situation when your predecessor was serving up to two years' imprisonment. It would be a very odd state of the law if Mr Gouriet had no special rights.

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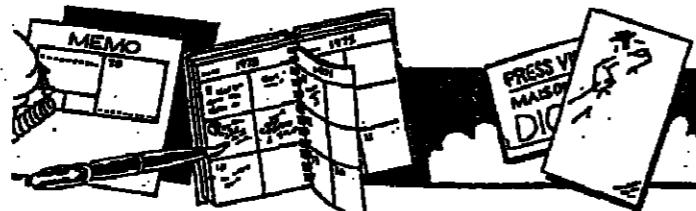
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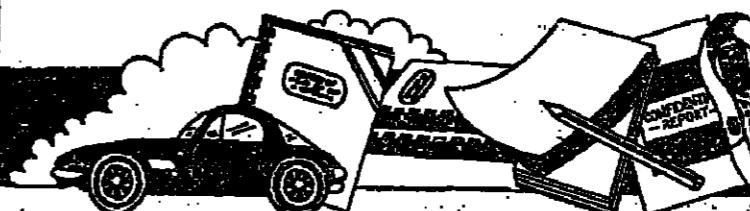
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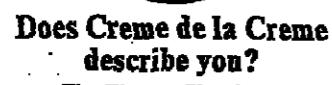


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otoring

and be
on
my roads

The averages 1966-77 should be in the records on one of the winter of recent years. Certainly remember spending so much time unfreezing door locks and ice off windows.

After some thoughts on driving I turned up a Ford issued under Roger Clark's October. Perhaps he had a son, for while he went on to RAC Rally in fine style

of ordinary motorists have is quick to observe that rally is have little application on highway. The rally driver, once, uses the controlled skid and tends to take his carways. There is no place for of driving on public roads.

to good driving, in any case, anticipation. When the is bad that means allowing to pull up in an emergency a greater distance from the head. If the surface is made by frost, ice, rain or snow, the is to drive gently.

the foot must be kept on to prevent the wheels from sudden acceleration or must be avoided, as must of the wheel. High gears used as much as possible and towed more than usual when cornering.

it does start, the worst thing though it is the natural res-

to jam the brake on that makes matters worse. The car is to ease off the throttle into the skid, so that if the are sliding left you should

not occur in Britain on only days each year, which may reason why motorists seem to it so rarely. In 1972 the was issued for code, but to have had little effect on behaviour. The salient points down and keep a safe

It is easy to lose a sense in fog, and the great tempta-

tion on to someone else's

there is always scope for

vers better advance warning

the fact remains that an

cause of multiple crashes is

so fast for the conditions

is invariably the verdict

ice on the spot.

or any other form of bad

it is essential to see and

Windows must be cleared

or snow before setting out,

completely: it is extra-

how many drivers think that

inches of clear glass is

Another hazard on a cold

is missing up inside the car,

the heating and ventilation

function it may be prudent

with one or more of the

pen.



The Colt Sigma 2000—a superior Japanese car.

Visibility also concerns the use of lights. Motorists in Britain (unlike some Continental countries) are notoriously reluctant to switch on their lights, though I have noticed some improvement in recent months. It is a legal requirement to use lights where daytime visibility has been seriously reduced by fog, smoke, heavy rain, spray or snow.

The phrase "seriously reduced" is open, of course, to different interpretations but I would say: if in doubt, switch on; you will be that much easier to see.

Road test: Sigma 2000

Most Japanese cars have been unexceptional vehicles, and their great success in Britain has been due to keen pricing, reputation, apparently justified, for reliability and the supply difficulties of some manufacturers. With the Colt Sigma, which has just gone on sale here, the situation is a little different, for it is by no means a cheap car (the 2 litre I have been seeing costs £3,599) it is a cut above the average Japanese product, and a considerable improvement over the Galant model it replaces.

The Sigma is three inches longer and two inches wider than the Galant, providing more room inside. A spoiler has been fitted at the front and the new bodyshell has not only a better aerodynamic shape but gives the car a crispier, less "Japanese" look.

The main difference is the adoption of coil springs instead of the old-fashioned leaf type for the rear suspension. Mechanically the mixture is much as before.

None of the changes is dramatic, nor does the car as whole offer any outstanding features. Rather, it achieves a high general standard of competence: it is solidly built, quiet and relaxing to drive, handles well and has an excellent gearbox. The car I reviewed just before Christmas, it is same length and height as the Ford and offers the same choice of 1.6 litre and 2 litre engines.

Even after standing out all night in sub-zero temperatures our Sigma started instantly on the automatic choke and I was most impressed by the smoothness and quietness of the 1.995cc overhead-camshaft engine. Only

after really fierce driving did it complain, while on the motorway at 70 mph in fifth gear the car seems barely stretched. Wind noise, too, is well muted.

Acceleration is average for the type of car, with a 0-to-60 mph figure of about 12 seconds and reasonable flexibility in fourth gear. The five-speed gearbox, standard on the 2000, is a delight to use, with well spaced ratios and a slick change. On fuel consumption I returned a creditable 24 to 30 miles to the gallon and the owner can save a few pence by using the recommended two-star petrol.

Handing gives every confidence. The

Mazda's new hatchback

One person who agrees that Japanese cars will have to compete more on their own merits, now that currency changes have wiped out the price advantage they once enjoyed, is Mr John Ebenerz, managing director of Mazda's British importer. He also doubts whether reliability will be as important in future with so many Japanese cars to choose from.

So he will be hoping to sell his latest model, the 323 hatchback, as "a new type of Japanese car". With the exception of the Toyota Corolla Liftback, the Japanese do not offer a hatchback in the light-car sector, though there are several European examples.

The 323 sensibly offers the choice of three or five doors but its interior space may suffer because of its conventional rear-wheel-drive layout. As Sir Alec Issigonis showed years ago with the Mini, the way to maximize passenger and luggage space is to turn the engine sideways and drive the front wheels. The 323 uses the same 955cc and 1.272cc engines, slightly

downrated in power to help fuel economy, as the 1000/1300 range, but

has changed from leaf to coil springs for the rear suspension.

The 323 will go on sale here in May. The photographs, meanwhile, reveal a strong likeness to the Volkswagen Golf (in the five-door version) and Vauxhall Chevette (three-door), further evidence that wherever they are made, cars are looking more and more alike.

Peter Waymark

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We also offer:

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'74 DL, 1 owner, auto, £2,150

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'73 144 DL auto, Orange, 1 owner, low mileage, £2,075

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